

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

June 26, 2018

APPROVE LA PLAZA DE CULTURA Y ARTES PASEO PROJECT REFINEMENTS TO SCOPE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT ADDENDUM.

This motion is for the Board to certify the Third Addendum to the Final EIR and approve the proposed 2017 refinements to the prior 2014 approval of the Paseo design at the Plaza de Cultura y Artes Project to improve the existing outdoor paseos and pedestrian walkways in the 500 block of Main Street, between Main and Spring Streets, in downtown Los Angeles. The recommended approvals will allow the LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes Foundation, the non-profit organization and County lessee operating the LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes cultural center, to implement the proposed improvements. The project is budgeted at \$1.5 million, with \$1.2 million from designated Proposition A, Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District funds, and \$300,000 in private funding. No additional County funding is requested.

In September 2004, your Board approved various actions related to developing a Latin American multimedia and cultural center dedicated to broadening the public's appreciation of the diverse contributions of Latin American settlers to the history of Los Angeles. The Board certified a Final Environmental Impact Report (2004 Final EIR) and approved the Plaza de Cultura y Artes Project (LA Plaza Project) and various other actions, including the execution of a Lease Agreement (Master Lease), relating to the development of a cultural center and outdoor paseo and walkways.

In 2014, refinements were proposed in the design of the outdoor paseo and pedestrian walkways component of the LA Plaza Project between Main and Spring Streets (2014 Paseo Project) and analyzed in a Second Addendum to the 2004 EIR (2014 Second Addendum). In November 2014, the Board certified the 2014 Second Addendum and approved the proposed Paseo Project revisions, but these were not implemented.

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Solis	_____
Ridley-Thomas	_____
Hahn	_____
Barger	_____
Kuehl	_____

In subsequent evaluation by the Foundation, the proposed design intent of the Paseo Project was revised to be more naturalistic and emblematic of the Los Angeles River, so as to better tell the historic narrative associated with the settling of Los Angeles. In the proposed 2017 Paseo Project, some components of the original 2014 plan have been eliminated, other design details have been added, and overall the proposed project area and area of potential disturbance have been slightly reduced as detailed in the Addendum and project record. The proposed 2017 Paseo Project was analyzed in a Third Addendum to the 2004 EIR, which concluded that the revised 2017 Paseo Project would not result in any additional significant environmental impacts or any substantial increase in the severity of impacts when compared to the Final EIR.

Lastly, the Foundation has conducted thorough outreach on the proposed revisions to interested parties, including the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Native Americans, and Hispanic groups who have expressed an interest in protecting the property's cultural resources, including the historic Los Angeles Plaza Church Cemetery, currently protected and preserved as a memorial garden. This has included outreach to the California Native American Heritage Commission, direct letters and emails to individual representatives of the aforementioned groups, and a project update posting on dedicated County and Foundation websites.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Certify that the Third Addendum to the previously certified Final Environmental Impact Report for the Plaza de Cultura y Artes Project has been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the County and that the Board has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Third Addendum and Final Environmental Impact Report and previous addenda as applicable prior to approving revisions to the project; approve the Third Addendum.
2. Approve the proposed Paseo Project revisions to the approved Plaza de Cultura y Artes Project to refine the design of improvements to the outdoor paseos and pedestrian walkways in the 500 block of Main Street, between Main and Spring Streets, in downtown Los Angeles.
3. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or her designee, to take any other actions consistent with and/or necessary for the implementation of the foregoing approvals