

LANDMARK STATUS FOR OLD GLORY

Old Glory, a Quercus lobata or Valley Oak species of oak, is believed to be over 400 years old. In 2003, John Quigley climbed onto this ancient oak in protest against its impending removal. The resulting 72-day sit-in garnered international media attention and rallied thousands of visitors in support of preserving the tree. Eventually, the tree was relocated to Pico Canyon Park, where it proudly stands today, thanks to the diligent care provided by the County Parks Department and the efforts of the community. Renamed "Old Glory" by two boys from the Stevenson Ranch neighborhood, this oak tree serves as a testament to a community's unwavering dedication to preserving our historic treasures.

On September 1, 2015, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) demonstrated its commitment to preserving culturally significant and historically important landmarks by adopting the Historic Preservation Ordinance (ordinance). This ordinance outlines the criteria and procedures for nominating and designating landmarks and historic districts, as well as reviewing work conducted on these landmarks, including the establishment of penalties. It equally emphasizes the significance of maintaining landmarks to prevent deterioration and ensure their long-term preservation. Consequently, the landmarks commission was granted the authority to review nominations for historic preservation and provide recommendations to the Board for approval or denial of such nominations.

Old Glory surpasses the age requirement specified in Section 22.124.070.A of the County Code, which states that a structure, site, object, tree, landscape, or natural land feature may be designated as a landmark if it is at least 50 years old and satisfies one or more significance criteria. In the years following the relocation of Old Glory, there has been a heightened focus on the importance of preserving natural resources and promoting stewardship and environmental preservation.

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MOTION

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The County has increasingly collaborated with stakeholders to ensure that communities can prosper while taking necessary measures to preserve assets like Old Glory whenever possible. Therefore, it is fitting to commence the necessary steps to designate Old Glory as a Los Angeles County Historic Landmark.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, with support from the relevant departments and in collaboration with community stakeholders, to initiate the nomination process for Old Glory as a Los Angeles County Historic Landmark.

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KB:rao