

**From:** [WeHo Preservation Alliance](#)  
**To:** [HPC Public Comment](#); [Antonio Castillo](#); [Jennifer Alkire](#)  
**Cc:** [City Council Web Email Address](#); [Judson Feder](#); [Susana Miller](#); [Roy Rogers Oldenkamp](#); [Jon Ponder](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on Draft City Report to State Preservation Agency  
**Date:** Monday, March 10, 2025 1:47:34 AM

---

**CAUTION - EXTERNAL SENDER.** Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear West Hollywood Historic Preservation Commissioners:

Your review of the draft annual Certified Local Government (CLG) program report offers an opportunity to reflect on past preservation accomplishments and future Commission endeavors. Here are some observations and suggestions for consideration at your meeting of March 10, 2025.

Page 1 of the draft focuses on “Preservation Law” and city ordinances. The City Council did a lengthy review of changes in purview for the city’s different commissions. The WHPA urged the Council to allow the HPC to comment on any such changes before enactment, and the HPC was the only Commission which the Council agreed should have an opportunity to review changes before they were finalized.

On February 21, 2023, the City Council directed that the HPC have an agenda item on proposed changes to its purview. Has the HPC had a chance to provide such input and, if so, apologies for missing it, but, if not, why not?

Page 5 related to “Commission Membership” mentions having two “qualified professionals” on the commission. The draft report indicates that the HPC currently has only one such professional. Of course, having two would be preferable.

Which poses the question of: If there is only one qualified professional on the commission and that individual is not able to attend a hearing requiring specific action on a matter such as a historic designation or a Certificate of Appropriateness, does any resulting recommendation/vote pass muster?

Page 8 on “Training Received” shows city staff attendance at webinars on

**ITEM 10.A.(Additional Correspondence (03/10/25))**

9/12/24 and 9/19/24 regarding “Historic Districts Explained: Understanding Designations, Diversity, and Current Challenges.” The HPC will be reviewing a variety of potential historic districts identified in the still ongoing surveys of multifamily neighborhoods (e.g. Vista Street) and single-family neighborhoods (e.g. Betty Way and Greenacre). Could the HPC and the preservation community be treated to these webinars for their enlightenment?

Page 9 on “Public Education” that includes outreach to the community has nothing much to report other than the usual “monthly” HPC meetings. Of course, such meetings are vital to hold. But please note that only 6 meetings were actually held during the 12-month reporting period of Oct. 1, 2023, through Sept. 30, 2024.

At its meeting of March 3, 2025, the City Council embarked on exploring more closely the operations of commissions and advisory boards. According to the staff report for Agenda Item F.2., **“West Hollywood of today has changed since its incorporation in 1984. Some of the considerations for future changes could include the potential consolidation of Advisory Boards and/or Commissions, exploring the practical implications and structure.”**

Increased visibility for historic preservation, such as through annual city observances and events for the public, may be a good thing to do in these times.

Finally, the CLG asks on Page 11 of the draft report whether the city has what could be a worthy “Local Property Acquisition Program” which the city indicates it does **not** have. But can the HPC and the public learn about any such efforts elsewhere in the State of California that could be adapted by West Hollywood? Perhaps the HPC could recommend a briefing on this topic as a future “New Business” item.

Thank you for having this CLG draft report appear as “New Business” and not just on the Consent Calendar as in previous years. It is good to discuss local reports before they wend their way onto State and Federal officials.

Victor Omelczenko, Member, WHPA Board



Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)