



Memorandum

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Chuck Reed
Councilmember Sam Liccardo
Councilmember Don Rocha
Councilmember Pierluigi
Oliverio

SUBJECT: FIRE STATION NO. 1

DATE: March 16, 2012

APPROVED:

Chuck Reed
Sam Liccardo
Don Rocha
Pierluigi Oliverio 3-16-12

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve staff recommendations to designate Fire Station No. 1 as a City Landmark.

BACKGROUND

The 2004 State Department of Parks and Recreation historic evaluation of Fire Station No. 1 reveals its eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources, based on its design and its representativeness of an important local pattern of development. These characteristics satisfy the required findings for designation as a City Landmark per the Municipal Code. We did not need to rely on the evaluation tally sheet which has been the subject of considerable Council discussion around replacing it with a less subjective evaluation tool.

Some of us hesitate to declare Fire Station One a City Landmark, out of concern for the negative impact of such a designation on the development potential of this strategic Downtown development opportunity site. Whether designated as a City Landmark or not, however, the building remains subject to review as a historical resource under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because of the determination of its eligibility for the national and state registries. Regardless of its designation, any future development permits on the site would face an identical environmental and development review process, because the building would be deemed a historical resource under CEQA.