



LOS ANGELES CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

200 North Spring Street, Room 272, Los Angeles, California, 90012-4801, (213) 978-1300
www.planning.lacity.org

LETTER OF DETERMINATION

MAILING DATE: DEC 04 2018

CASE NO. CHC-2018-4617-HCM

Council District: 12 – Englelander

CEQA: ENV-2018-4618-CE

Plan Area: Chatsworth – Porter Ranch

Proposed Monument: THE APETA MOMONGA MISSION TRAIL

Property Address: 20765-20855 West Rinaldi Street; 11026-11050 North De Soto Avenue; 11100-11101 North Lurline Avenue; 11200 North Porter Ranch Drive

Owners: Sierra Canyon High School Foundation; Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; JFK Investment Group LLC; Yara Szasz; Gabor Duvon

Applicants: Dean Wageman and Darlene Brothers-Wageman, Chatsworth Historical Society

At its meeting of **November 15, 2018**, the Cultural Heritage Commission took the actions below to include The Apeta Momonga Mission Trail in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments, subject to adoption by the City Council:

1. **Determined** that the proposed designation is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 and Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 of the State CEQA Guidelines;
2. **Determined** that the property conforms with the definition of a Monument pursuant to Section 22.171.7 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code;
3. **Recommended** that the City Council consider The Apeta Momonga Mission Trail for inclusion in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments; and
4. **Adopted** the attached findings as amended by the Commission.

The Commission vote was as follows:

Moved: Kennard
Seconded: Milofsky
Ayes: Barron, Buelna, Kanner

Vote: 5 – 0

Etta Armstrong, Commission Executive Assistant I
Cultural Heritage Commission

Time for Council to Act: The Commission action will be transmitted to the City Council for consideration. Pursuant to Section 22.171.10(f) of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, the Council may approve or disapprove in whole or in part an application or initiation for a proposed designation of a Monument. The Council shall act in 90-days of the public hearing held before the Commission on the proposed designation. The City Council may unilaterally extend the 90-day time limit to act for a maximum of 15 days for good cause. With written consent of the owner, the time for the City Council to act may be extended by up to an additional 60 days. If the Council does not act on the application or initiation within this specified time limit, the application or initiation to designate a Monument shall be deemed to have been denied.

For further information regarding the scheduling of this matter before the City Council please call the Office of the City Clerk, Planning and Land Use Management Committee at (213) 978-1074.

Attachment: Amended Findings

c: Hannah Lee, Chief Planning Deputy, Twelfth Council District
 Ken Bernstein, Principal City Planner, Office of Historic Resources
 Lambert Giessinger, Architect, Office of Historic Resources
 Victor Cuevas, Assistant Deputy Superintendent, Department of Building and Safety
 Pascal Challita, Chief, Department of Building and Safety, Inspection Bureau
 Betty Dong, GIS Chief, Department of City Planning

THE APETA MOMONGA MISSION TRAIL
CHC-2018-4617-HCM

FINDINGS

(As Amended by the Cultural Heritage Commission on November 15, 2018)

- The Apeta Momonga Mission Trail “reflects the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, state, or community” for its pre-Spanish settlement use as a route between the Native American villages of Achoicominga and Momonga, and for its association with the historic network of trails that connected the San Fernando and Ventura Missions during California’s Mission Period (1769-1833).

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

On October 22, 2018, the applicant submitted an addendum to their original Historic-Cultural Monument application to revise the significance statement and request the name of the proposed monument be changed from The Chatsworth Old Mission Trail to The Chatsworth Momonga/Mission Trail to recognize the Native American history associated with the trail. Based on testimony from members of the public and other information presented during the hearing on November 15, 2018, the Commission recommends that the name of the proposed Historic-Cultural Monument be changed to “The Apeta Momonga Mission Trail.”

The Commission finds that the The Apeta Momonga Mission Trail meets one of the Historic-Cultural Monument criteria.

The subject property “reflects the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, state, or community” first for its pre-Spanish settlement use as a route between the Native American villages of Achoicominga and Momonga. At the time, Momonga was the largest community in the Santa Susana Pass area and represented an intersection between three regional tribes, the Ventureño Chumash, the Tataviam, and the Gabrieliño/Tongva. Archaeological information suggests that Momonga was occupied from the Middle Period (1500 B.C. to 500 A.D.) until contact with the Spanish. The extensive rock art at the site suggests that it had a significant ceremonial component which distinguished it from other villages. In fact, Momonga was referred to as the Ranchería de la Piedras (Village of the Stones) in the Mission San Fernando registers. Momonga was one of several Native American communities later incorporated into the Mission San Fernando.

The subject property is also significant for its association with the historic network of trails that connected the San Fernando and Ventura Missions during California’s Mission Period (1769-1833). By 1832, California had a chain of 21 missions that extended from San Diego to San Francisco. They were placed no more than one day’s journey apart along the route known as El Camino Real, the King’s Highway. Each was situated where it had arable land for crops, an ample water supply, and a substantial Native American population. Multiple structures dating to California’s Mission Period are designated Historic-Cultural Monuments, including the San Fernando Rey Mission (1791, HCM #23), the Nuestra Señora La Reina de Los Angeles (Plaza Church) (1822, HCM #3), and the Rómulo Pico Adobe (Rancho Rómulo) (1834, HCM #7). The subject property would be the first Historic-Cultural Monument designated specifically for its association with El Camino Real and the trails connecting California’s network of missions, presidios, and pueblos.

While the applicant argues that The Apeta Momonga Mission Trail is significant for its association with historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history, the Commission does not find that the property meets this criterion. Many people traveled this trail over millennia, some of whom may rise to the level of historic personages; however, it is not identified with the productive life of any one individual or group, and does not represent a particular person's significant contributions to history.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT ("CEQA") FINDINGS

State of California CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 "consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment."

State of California CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 "consists of projects limited to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic buildings."

The designation of The Apeta Momonga Mission Trail as an Historic-Cultural Monument in accordance with Chapter 9, Article 1, of The City of Los Angeles Administrative Code ("LAAC") will ensure that future construction activities involving the subject property are regulated in accordance with Section 22.171.14 of the LAAC. The purpose of the designation is to prevent significant impacts to a Historic-Cultural Monument through the application of the standards set forth in the LAAC. Without the regulation imposed by way of the pending designation, the historic significance and integrity of the subject property could be lost through incompatible alterations and new construction and the demolition of an irreplaceable historic site/open space. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation are expressly incorporated into the LAAC and provide standards concerning the historically appropriate construction activities which will ensure the continued preservation of the subject property.

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 8 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals of maintaining, restoring, enhancing, and protecting the environment through the imposition of regulations designed to prevent the degradation of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 31 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals relating to the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of historic buildings and sites in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Categorical Exemption ENV-2018-4618-CE was prepared on October 16, 2018.