

# Agenda Report

November 25, 2013

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Department of Public Works

**SUBJECT: ADOPT RESOLUTION APPROVING NOMINATION OF COLORADO STREET BRIDGE AS A CALIFORNIA HISTORIC CIVIL ENGINEERING LANDMARK**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Adopt a resolution approving the nomination of Colorado Street Bridge as a California Historic Civil Engineering Landmark; and
2. Approve the proposed wording for a future bronze plaque from the Los Angeles Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers commemorating the Colorado Street Bridge's designation as a California Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, and authorize it to be permanently mounted on the bridge in recognition of the bridge's 100 years of service to the City of Pasadena.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The construction of the Colorado Street Bridge was completed in December 1913, and the bridge will be 100 years old in December 2013. The bridge previously underwent a major seismic rehabilitation, which was completed in December 1993 marking its 80-year anniversary. The Colorado Street Bridge has successfully served the City of Pasadena for 100 years and has contributed to the economic and cultural development of surrounding cities.

In 1975, the Los Angeles Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) designated the Colorado Street Bridge as a Local Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. In 1979, the bridge was designated a Cultural Landmark by the City of Pasadena, and the bridge was later listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981. In 1988, the Colorado Street Bridge was documented in the Library of Congress as Historic American Engineering Record No. CA-58.

The Los Angeles Section of ASCE now proposes to commemorate the bridge's centennial with the designation by ASCE as a California Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. In the future, ASCE plans to present a commemorative bronze plaque to the City of Pasadena in recognition of the bridge's service to the community. The proposed wording for the plaque is shown in Attachment A.

On October 19, 2013, the Regional Board of the Los Angeles Section of ASCE adopted a resolution nominating the Colorado Street Bridge as a California Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. They have requested a resolution from the Pasadena City Council as part of the approval process.

On Saturday, December 7, 2013, there is a reception scheduled at the Pasadena Museum of History to honor the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Bridge. If the proposed wording for the ASCE plaque is approved, there will be a short ceremony on the bridge later that day at the approved location, approximately 150 feet from the east end of the bridge along the southerly concrete railing. The plaque would be permanently mounted on the bridge later in early 2014.

**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:**

The proposed action is consistent with General Plan Objective 6, to promote preservation of historically and architecturally significant structures and revitalization of traditional neighborhoods and commercial areas.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

Nomination of Colorado Street Bridge as a California Historic Civil Engineering Landmark is exempt from environmental review. The listing of the bridge as a historic landmark is categorically exempt from CEQA under class 8, actions by regulatory agencies for the protection of the environment.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

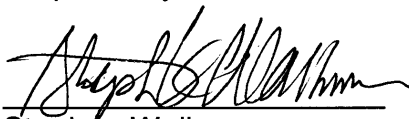
There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action and it will not have any indirect or support cost requirements. The cost for installation of the plaque will be paid for by the Los Angeles Section of ASCE. There is no anticipated impact to other operational programs or capital projects as a result of this action.

Respectfully submitted,



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SIOBHAN FOSTER  
Director of Public Works

Prepared by:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Walker  
Principal Engineer

Approved by:



\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL J. BECK  
City Manager

Attachment A – Proposed Wording for ASCE Bronze Plaque

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA  
APPROVING THE NOMINATION OF THE COLORADO STREET BRIDGE AS A  
CALIFORNIA HISTORIC CIVIL ENGINEERING LANDMARK**

**WHEREAS**, on December 16, 1913, Communication No. 10119 of Waddell & Harrington was presented and read to the City Commission (since renamed the "City Council") of the City of Pasadena as follows:

"We have the pleasure to deliver to you the Colorado Street Bridge over the Arroyo Seco, the contractor, the Mercereau Bridge & Construction Company having complied with all of the terms of its contract for the construction of said bridge except the affixing of name plates to Bridge. These plates were shipped from Kansas City on December 9th and should reach here today. The contractor agrees to attach these plates as soon as received. The bridge is entirely completed and is a first class structure in every respect. We wish to thank the City of Pasadena for the kind and friendly relations which have always existed between us"; and

**WHEREAS**, it was moved by Commissioner Allin, "That communication be received and placed on file and that the Colorado Street Bridge ... is hereby accepted as of December 13th, 1913"; and

**WHEREAS**, the motion was duly seconded and carried by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners Allin, Hamilton, Loughery, Metcalf and Salisbury, Noes: None; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado Street Bridge subsequently provided for the first time a direct route to the City of Los Angeles and other coastal areas to the west of the Arroyo Seco, thus fostering a ready exchange of goods and services between the affected areas; and

**WHEREAS**, said exchange of goods and services contributed significantly to the economic and cultural development of all areas surrounding the City of Pasadena; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado Street Bridge was designated in 1975 as a Local Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the Los Angeles Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, a Cultural Landmark in 1979 by the City of Pasadena, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981, and documented in the Library of Congress as Historic American Engineering Record No. CA-58 in 1988; and

**WHEREAS**, to commemorate the bridge's 100 years of service to the City of Pasadena, said Los Angeles Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers proposes to designate, in the year 2013, said Colorado Street Bridge as a California Historic Civil Engineering Landmark and to present to the City of Pasadena a bronze plaque with approved wording in recognition of said service to be permanently mounted at a location on or in close proximity to said bridge.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Pasadena hereby approves the proposed designation of the Colorado Street Bridge as a California Historic Civil Engineering Landmark and agrees to accept said bronze plaque with approved wording commemorating the bridge's 100 years of service to the City of Pasadena.

Adopted at the \_\_\_\_\_ meeting of the City Council on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

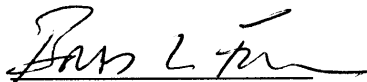
ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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MARK JOMSKY, City Clerk

Approved as to form:



Brad L. Fuller  
Assistant City Attorney