



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Joseph Horwedel

**SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF CENTURY  
21 THEATRE BUILDING AS A  
CITY LANDMARK**

**DATE:** January 3, 2014

Approved

Date

1/3/14

## INFORMATION

On January 9, 2014, the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) is scheduled to consider nominating the Century 21 theatre building at 3161 Olsen Drive, and/or the larger site that also includes the Flames restaurant (former Bob's Big Boy), as a City Landmark. A City Landmark is considered to have a special historical, architectural, cultural, aesthetic or engineering interest or value of an historical nature. The nomination of a City Landmark is in accordance with the City's Municipal Code that allows for the nomination of landmarks by the City Council, Historic Landmarks Commission or a private property owner. The nomination of the landmark begins the landmark designation process. If nominated by the Commission, information prepared by a qualified historian would need to be submitted to the City to document its historic value. Upon receipt and evaluation of the information, public hearings will be scheduled according to the Municipal Code for the Commission's recommendation and City Council's final action on the proposed designation.

Staff has informed the property owners and other interested parties of the meeting in January. In addition, the property owners are underway with their own historic analysis of the property. If the analysis finds that the structure(s) are significant and if the property does not become a Landmark, any development application on the site would need environmental clearance addressing any historic impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act.

The Century 21 theatre was constructed in 1964 and is considered an example of mid-Century modern architecture. It was the first of six similarly designed theatres that were constructed in San José during the period of 1964 to 1971. A presentation was made to the Historic Landmarks Commission at its meeting on November 25, 2013, on the Century 21 movie theatre and the former Bob's Big Boy restaurant as examples of mid-Century architecture. In response to the

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information presented, the Commission requested to place the proposed City Landmark nomination of the Century 21 theatre and/or the larger site that includes the former Bob's Big Boy restaurant on the January 9, 2014 Historic Landmarks Commission agenda.

/s/

JOSEPH HORWEDEL, DIRECTOR

Planning, Building and Code Enforcement

For additional information, please contact Laurel Prevetti, Assistant Director of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement, at 408-535-7901.