

Communication from Public

Name: Michael Callahan
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Council File No: 19-0782

Comments for Public Posting: Item No. 26 Council File 19-0782 CD 3 Commissioners, I call on you today to please rescind your decision to deny historic monument status for the Bothwell Ranch. I ask this because you have made your decision based on erroneous criteria contained within the SurveyLA Citywide Historic Context Statement. Councilman Blumenfield clearly stated that the decision to deny was based on the replanting of the orange grove some time between the years 1980 and 1985. In case the Councilman didn't know, the developers consultant Teresa Grimes didn't, all commercial orange groves are periodically replanted. A commercial orange tree has a productive lifespan of 40 years or less. The trees are planted, the grove enters its productive phase, and then at some point all of the trees are replaced. Drive through citrus groves and you will often see large sections being replanted. The trees are not replaced one by one as they die. A commercial grove planted in 1945 (the end of the period of importance) would be replanted in 1980 to 1985. This is what the aerial photographs show. If the Bothwell Ranch was no longer a viable operation, why was the grove replanted? By letting your decision stand, you are saying that NO commercial grove is eligible for historic monument status because no commercial grove can meet the integrity criteria. I also call your attention to a historic event that occurred at the Ranch that is not documented and is worthy of consideration. In January 1956, NBC studios in New York sent their \$600,000 color mobile unit Rancho Rinconada (aka the Bothwell ranch) to video the first color drama to be broadcast live from an outdoor location. This was a national first. The drama, "All the Trees in the Field" is the story of a 70-year-old orange rancher in the struggle to retain his beloved grove against encroaching real-estate sub-dividers. Two weeks later, an article appeared in the same NBC source stating that the experiment was a success. Thus, the ranch has a direct connection to the very early history of the color television broadcast industry here in Los Angeles. Thank you for your time, I hope you see the error in your prior decision and reconsider.