



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MANAGER'S REPORT

DATE ISSUED: September 19, 2003 REPORT NO. 03-194

ATTENTION: Natural Resources and Culture Committee
Agenda of September 24, 2003

SUBJECT: Sidewalk Stamps and Scoring Patterns Policy

SUMMARY

Issue: Should staff continue to develop a council policy that addresses the City Council's desire to state its support of the preservation of sidewalk stamps and scoring patterns?

Recommendations: Direct staff to continue with the development of a council policy that supports preservation of stamps and scoring patterns in both public and private sidewalk repair, maintenance and replacement projects.

Fiscal Impact: The construction cost associated with staff's current procedures for preservation of contractor stamps is approximately \$300 per stamp being removed and relocated/reset.

BACKGROUND

At the Natural Resources and Culture Committee meeting of May 15, 2002, the Engineering and Capital Projects department presented a memorandum dated April 12, 2002, addressing Historical Stamps and Sidewalk Scoring Patterns responsibilities and disposition for City contract work. On a 4-0 vote [Madaffer, Peters, Wear, Frye] the committee directed staff to: A) Seek input from the Community Planners Committee and the Historical Resources Board regarding historical date stamps before reporting back to the Natural Resources and Culture Committee; B) Draft a council policy dealing with the issue of historical date stamps; C) Contact Jim Newland regarding historical date stamps; and, D) Report back to the Natural Resources and Culture Committee by September 2002.

While this assignment was received by the Engineering and Capital Projects department, Planning Department management accepted responsibility for proceeding with the effort that involved the community planning groups and the Historical Resources Board, while E&CP, DSD, Street Division, and the Water Department assisted with technical information.

DISCUSSION

Scope of Policy and Staff Procedures

In developing a council policy, staff has expanded the issues presented in the April 12, 2002, City Engineer's memorandum. That memo addressed the preservation effort within the authority of City construction contracts for new sidewalks. It did not address all repair and maintenance jobs. It also did not address sidewalk responsibilities of private development. The City's Progress Guide and General Plan Cultural Resources and Urban Design Elements promote efforts that "insure new development adds to the existing character of the community. . ." The draft policy, therefore, addresses the City's intent to preserve sidewalk stamps and scoring patterns in construction contracts, repair and maintenance work, as well as private development. See Attachment 1. In addition, it is written to identify, and defer to, the various locations of regulations or policies or guidelines where preservation efforts are managed.

Public Input

City staff had been involved for several years with representatives of some of the communities which had been active in preservation of their sidewalk stamps and scoring patterns. The April 2002 memorandum from the City Engineer, Frank Belock, was the result of these discussions. Planning Department staff also attended working meetings with the North Park and Normal Heights Community Planning Committees regarding sidewalks, curbs, gutters and streets. Issues related to preservation of sidewalk markings and scoring patterns are routinely discussed by community planning groups during review of private development and planned City contract and planned maintenance work.

Direction from the Natural Resources and Culture Committee was specific in terms of reviewing the City Engineer's April 12, 2002, memorandum with the Community Planners' Committee [CPC] and Historical Resources Board.

The City's Historical Resources Board Design Assistance Subcommittee was introduced to this issue in August 2002 prior to the drafting of the policy. The Subcommittee suggested that sidewalk markings be preserved as much as possible, and gave specific input about preservation efforts that should be made, including recasting and resetting date stamps nearby to the original location. The Subcommittee indicated that if sidewalk markings are to be affected, they should be saw-cut and relocated in the same general area, and with the same orientation.

They also indicated that if broken, they should be recast on a mold and reset nearby, perhaps with a current date and contract name. The Subcommittee indicated that for new sidewalk sections the historic scoring pattern or curb-cut pattern should be provided. Concrete color should provide a match with the original color, to at least 60-65%. Walls and curbs also need to be considered for preservation, especially where street names are provided.

During the past year, CPC received several updates regarding the Committee direction and were aware that planning groups might be contacted for their review. Staff believed that a broader overview of all City processes associated with sidewalk stamps and scoring would be beneficial to the communities and organized a city-wide forum, inviting CPC representatives with interest in the issue. In July 2003, CPC representatives were asked to attend a meeting on the subject of sidewalk stamps and scoring patterns. Many representatives of Urbanized Communities expressed interest. The meeting was held August 6, 2003, where City staff from the Development Services Department, Planning Department, and Engineering divisions overseeing the Capital Improvement Program, the Street Division, Field Division, and Water and Sewer Operations, discussed with community representatives topics such as: public right-of-way work that can affect markers and scoring; departmental oversight of right-of-way work; review of current or proposed procedures; as well as an open discussion with questions, comments, and interactive dialogue among community members and City staff. The discussion encompassed both public work and private development work. The meeting agenda is Attachment 2 of this report. Attachment 3 to the report is a list of comments and issues raised at the August 6 meeting.

It should be noted that current staff procedures for City work approach the preservation of sidewalk stamps with the goal of preserving intact stamps and placing them as close as possible to their original locations. Resident Engineers review locations where this is possible with community representatives at the start of City contracts. In general, this approach was supported by attendees at the August 6 meeting. The attendees also affirmed that a general Policy statement which reinforces the existing areas where this is covered in plans and code (and implemented by the responsible departments) was the approach they supported. Some members additionally requested staff to look at preserving all contractor stamps and markers, irrespective of age, under the philosophy that what is new today would be old someday. This would have a cost, but since there is no inventory of such stamps, we are unable to estimate the overall cost of this. If the same approach were used as currently in place for the older stamps, the cost per stamp for the construction is \$300 per stamp. One attendee requested staff to look also at minimum (more stringent) performance requirements on specifications for color, texture, and trying to match older surfaces with newer surfaces. Staff would need to look further at the construction enforceability and cost issues associated with more stringent construction requirements.

CONCLUSION

Staff has drafted a council policy that supplements adopted General Plan language addressing the preservation of sidewalk stamps and scoring patterns as part of a community's character and traditional streetscape. Public review thus far supports the approach taken: a brief council policy with identification of the location of regulations and staff procedures required to implement the council policy.

Respectfully submitted,

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Frank Belock, Jr.
Director
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Approved: George Loveland
Chief Deputy City Manager

McCullough/BAM

Attachment: 1. [Draft Council Policy](#)
2. [Meeting Agenda from August 6, 2003, Community Meeting](#)
3. [August 6, 2003, Meeting Comments](#)