

Time line of events regarding the Meadow Terrace in the SBBG  
(revised 10/14/07 with input from PC by RCS)

Web site of the Santa Barbara County Historic Landmarks Advisory Committee  
<http://www.sbcountyplanning.org/boards/hlac/hlac.cfm>

6/29/07 -- date referred to by Bob Johnson that Alex Tuttle and Anne Almy made a site visit where the SBBG showed them the newly paved Indian Trail and the site for the Meadow Terrace.

7/10/07 --- date of official request, by email, for a Substantial Conformity Determination by Bob Johnson of the SBBG to Alex Tuttle, planner, for the "Meadow Terrace Exhibit"

7/18/07 (see Exhibit A (09-04-07 Attachments.pdf))

Letter from Dave Ward (Deputy Director, County P&D) to Ed Schneider (President and CEO of SBBG) providing approval of their request for a Substantial Conformity Determination (SCD) for the Garden's Meadow Terrace.

July 26, 2007-- photos taken of stacks of pavers that were removed in preparation of grading, etc.

July 26, 2007 Article about the Meadow Terrace "skirmish" in The Independent. (date??)

July 31, 2007 -- photos taken of skip loader filled with flagstone going down the Lockwood de Forest steps that had been covered in sand, dirt, and gravel for protection.

August 3, 2007 photos of excavation and piles of dirt in Meadow Terrace area.

8/??/07 - bulldozers roll into the Garden's meadow

Skirmish at Botanic Garden – by Chris Meagher – Thursday, August 2, 2007

<http://independent.com/news/2007/aug/02/skirmish-botanic-garden/?print>

Photo of bulldozers and an early article describing the Garden's circumvention of the HLAC.

8/13/07 (currently no electronic version of this document)

Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission Agenda for Hearing of August 13, 2007.

Item 8. Briefing to HLAC from County P&D that included:

“a) Receive a briefing on P&D's decision to approve a Substantial Conformity Determination (SCD) for the SBBG's Meadow Terrace project, and

b) Receive the SBBG Vital Mission Plan DEIR historical resources section for HLAC subcommittee review and assessment.”

August 13, 2007 Meadow Terrace project on the Agenda and brought to attention of County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission. The CHLAC had not been consulted on this major change to the landmark. Request was also made for the CHLAC to be involved with the evaluation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the SBBG's expansion plans.

8/16/07 (see Exhibit A (09-04-07 Attachments.pdf))

Copy of 8/16/07) letter from Dave Ward (Deputy Director, County P&D) to Ed Schneider (President and CEO of SBBG) rescinding approval of Meadow Terrace. Stop Work Order on Meadow Terrace project sent to SBBG by County P and D. due to substantial community opposition.

(LUDC App H SCD.pdf)

Substantial Conformity Determination Guidelines (from Santa Barbara County Code – chapter 35 – County land Use & Development Code)

8/22/07 (Exhibit A in (Battles LTR Bd Supervisors Part 1 9-20-07.pdf))

Letter from Richard G. Battles of Mullen & Henzell L.L.P. (Attorneys for SBBG) to Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission (HLAC) regarding the Garden's "Meadow Terrace Exhibit". Letter provides "reasons supporting the Garden's conclusion that the Meadow Terrace Exhibit fully complies with Resolution No. 2003-059 and does not require the approval of the Landmarks Commission".

8/22/07 (08-22-07\_HLAC\_min.pdf)

Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission (HLAC) held a special meeting at the Botanic Garden. Two results (from the approved minutes of this special meeting) included:

1) i) "All six commissioners stated that the resolution (Resolution No. 2003-059) for County Landmark #24, known as the 'Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Mission Dam and Aqueduct,' includes the historic landscape design concept of the meadow in its designation of the landmark.

ii) All six commissioners stated that the "Meadow Terrace" project is a substantial deviation from the historic landscape design concept of the meadow and is a substantial deviation from the historic use of the meadow.

iii) All six commissioners believe that the project must come before the HLAC for their decision on the project."

2) Commissioner Lowsley appointed to draft letter from HLAC to SB County (Alex Tuttle) concerning the Garden's Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). This letter noted that "the analysis of impacts on cultural and historical resources in the DEIR for the SBBG's Vital Mission Plan is inadequate and that the DEIR should be revised and recirculated". The letter sets out specific recommendations.

August 22, 2007 --CHLAC site visit at the SBBG. The walls were up already and the cap stone demonstrated.

Letters submitted to September 10, 2007 meeting of the HLAC:

Sue Adams (HLAC Commissioner)

(BOTANIC GARDEN MEADOW TERRACE PROJECT DISCUSSION.doc)

Charles Birnbaum (Founder & President, The Cultural Landscape Foundation)

(Chas-2.Birnbaum letter to HLAC.doc)

Kellam deForest (son of Lockwood deForest)

(Kellam.doc)

9/10/07 (09-10-07\_HLAC\_agenda.pdf)

HLAC Agenda for Hearing of September 10, 2007. Decision Item #8. Public hearing to “determine whether the pending Meadow Terrace project at the SBBG is in compliance with Resolution 2003-059. Take appropriate action.” ....

9/10/07 (09-04-07 Attachments.pdf)

This is an attachment to the Planning Commission Staff Report preparing the PC for their scheduled meeting on 9/26/07 that was subsequently canceled. However, this attachment includes:

Attachment B – sketch of the Garden’s proposed Meadow Terrace

Attachment C – Unapproved minutes from HLAC’s 9/10/07 meeting including HLAC’s comments regarding the proposed Meadow Terrace and their Actions that were subsequently appealed by the Garden (see 9/20/07 Battles letter).

Attachment D – Copy of County Resolution declaring portions of the Botanic Garden protection as a County Landmark.

Exhibit A – Parcel Plot of Garden Landmarks area, drawing of same,

Copy of (7/18/07) letter from Dave Ward (Dept. Director County P&D) to Ed Schneider (President and CEO of SBBG) providing approval of their request for a Substantial Conformity Determination (SCD) for the Garden’s Meadow Terrace.

Copy of (8/16/07) letter from Dave Ward (Deputy Director, County P&D) to Ed Schneider (President and CEO of SBBG) rescinding approval of Meadow Terrace.

9/20/07 (Battles LTR Bd Supervisors Part 1 9-20-07.pdf)

Letter from Richard G. Battles of Mullen & Henzell L.L.P. (Attorneys for SBBG) to the County Board of Supervisors. Regarding SBBG – Meadow Terrace Exhibit Area-Appeal of Actions by the HLAC. This letter plus several attachments (Exhibits) sets out the “facts and analysis which provide the basis for” the Garden’s appeal. Part 1, includes part of “Exhibit A”, Letter to HLAC from Mullen & Hanzell dated August 22, 2007.

September 22, 2007 --SBBG withdraws its appeal to the County Planning Commission as both the County staff report and CHLAC have stated that the Meadow Terrace Exhibit does not fit within SCD guidelines.

September 22(?), 2007 --SBBG decides to appeal the Stop Work Order directly to the SB County Board of Supervisors that the Meadow Terrace project should be exempt from CHLAC review and the SCD reinstated.

9/26/07 (09-24-07 PCSR.pdf)

Planning Commission Staff Report to Planning Commission in preparation for the SBBG meadow terrace Substantial Conformity Determination. Hearing set for September 26, 2007. This hearing was subsequently canceled when the SBBG appealed the HLAC determinations to the County Board of Supervisors via their appeal letter of 9/20/07. This report provides the (1) request, (2) recommendation and procedures, (3) jurisdiction, (4) issue summary, (5) project information, (6) project analysis, (7) appeals procedure and “attachments” (see, 09-24-07 Attachments.pdf). The report recommended the Commission should “include the following:

1. Find that the project is not in Substantial Conformity with the existing CUP; and
2. Direct staff to include the project into the current Vital Mission Plan CUP Revision application and analyze accordingly.”

9/26/07 (09-24-07 Attachments.pdf)

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10/08/07 (10-08-07\_HLAC\_agenda.pdf)

Decision Item #5 – HLAC will hold “public hearing and determine if and how they wish to send comments to the BOS on the Garden’s appeal of the HLAC’s denial of the SBBG Meadow Terrace project.”

Unofficial minutes of this meeting not yet (to my knowledge) made public.

11/06/07 – Scheduled meeting at the County Board of Supervisors to consider the Gardens appeal of HLAC actions.