



Staff Report

City of Pomona Historic Preservation Commission

January 7, 2026

SUBJECT Mills Act Year-In-Review

PROJECT PLANNER: Geoffrey Starns, AICP, AIA, LEED AP, Planning Manager

This year we had 11 applications for the Mills Act. Last year we had 19 applications submitted.

In 2022 we changed the application process to make it easier to complete. Before these changes, we had 5 applications at most. We have had 51 in the last four years.

The biggest issue we have had the last two years is the County. The 2023 Contracts ended up delayed a year, partially our fault as there was a misunderstanding with the assessor's office. The 2024 contracts have not been reassessed, even though they were recorded on time (staff verified they were recorded, sent to the assessor's office, and were received). The 2025 contracts were recorded on time and have been sent to the Assessor's Office.

Staff has two concerns regarding the program. First, the continued problems with the Assessor's Office are causing huge problems for staff. The amount of time we spend on complaints for issues we have no control over is not sustainable. The second issue that staff has is that with Measure Y, the budget is being reduced and it does not seem to be a good time to reduce property tax revenue for the City.

Staff is recommending to pause the Mills Act applications for 2025 until the issues with the Assessor and Measure Y are resolved. Staff also would propose that in the fall staff will bring recommendations for changes to the program to make it more effective and to address any issues with the Assessor or Measure Y that still remain.

Staff looks forward to discussing the issue with the Commission