

**RESOLUTION NO. 27-10**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND  
DESIGNATING THE STANDARD OIL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AS A  
RICHMOND HISTORIC RESOURCE (PLN12-019)**

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**WHEREAS**, the applicant, John Jensen, on behalf of Chevron Energy and Technology Company, filed Planning Application PLN12-019 with the City of Richmond requesting designation of the Standard Oil Administration Building located at 841 Chevron Way (Assessor's Parcel No. 561-100-040) as a historic resource; and

**WHEREAS**, any request for designation of an existing structure, site, or other improvement as a historic resource is subject to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Historic Structures Code (Richmond Municipal Code Chapter 6.06); and

**WHEREAS**, under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guideline 15061(b)(3), the City Council finds the proposed historic resource designation exempt from environmental review because the designation of a historic resource does not have a significant effect on the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 15, 2012, the Historic Preservation Commission recommended the City Council designate the Standard Oil Administration Building as a historic resource listed on the Richmond Historical Register;

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has conducted a properly noticed public hearing pursuant to California Government Code Section 65090 and has duly considered all written and verbal testimony presented before or during the hearing, including the agenda report dated March 6, 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, on the basis of the application, materials, and testimony submitted at or before the public hearing, the City Council finds that the Standard Oil Administration Building meets the following four criteria that make it eligible for designation as a historic resource.

- 1. It exemplifies or reflects valued elements of the City's cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering, archeological, or architectural history.***

Statement of Fact: The Standard Oil Administration Building reflects the economic history of Richmond as a symbol of the Richmond Refinery of the Standard Oil Company. The Richmond Refinery along with the Santa Fe Railway was the original reason for the development of Point Richmond. As the largest employer in the city over many years, it was a major factor in the emergence and growth of the City of Richmond as a whole. The Standard Oil Administration Building has been a prominent symbol of the whole refinery since its completion in 1920.

- 2. It is identified with persons or events important in local, state, or national history.***

Statement of Fact: The Standard Oil Administration Building is identified with a number of individuals prominent in an important period in the history of the Richmond Refinery and the Standard Oil Company, including William D. Mason, Fredrick W. Mann, Richard W. Hanna, and John B. Terry. These individuals were key to the transformation of the refinery from the old horse and railroad era to the new automobile era.

- 3. It embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style, type, period, or method of construction, or is a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship.***

Statement of Fact: The Standard Oil Administration Building embodies the distinguishing characteristics of a corporate office building of its day, a type that played an important role in the development of Richmond and of California. Its modified Renaissance style and its two-part composition convey its importance in the context of the refinery and in

the larger context of the Standard Oil Company. Its fire resistant construction, its materials, and its very fine brickwork reflect a high level of craftsmanship.

**4. It is representative of the notable work of a builder, designer, or architect whose style influenced the City’s architectural development.**

Statement of Fact: The Standard Oil Administration Building was designed by architect George W. Kelham and his frequent collaborator Henry J. Brunnier. Kelham and Brunnier were leaders in their respective professions in California. Kelham came to San Francisco from New York with the firm of Trowbridge & Livingston to supervise construction of the new Palace Hotel after the 1906 earthquake. Subsequently he had his own practice in San Francisco until his death in 1936. He is best known for his many downtown San Francisco skyscrapers including the Standard Oil, Russ, and Shell Buildings and as the Supervising Architect for the University of California with responsibility for the plan of UCLA and many buildings on the Berkeley and Los Angeles campuses.

Brunnier also came to San Francisco immediately after the earthquake and opened his own office in 1908. He built the first reinforced concrete structures at the Port of San Francisco. He prepared the structural designs of many of the major office skyscrapers in San Francisco in the 1910s to 1930s including several with Kelham. He was described as one of “the three most influential engineers in San Francisco in the 1920s and 1930s,” with a particular expertise in designing buildings to resist earthquakes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the City Council designates the Standard Oil Administration Building as a historic resource to be listed on the Richmond Historic Register.

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I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held on March 6, 2012, by the following vote:

- AYES: Councilmembers Bates, Beckles, Booze, Ritterman, Vice Mayor Rogers, and Mayor McLaughlin.
- NOES: None.
- ABSTENTIONS: None.
- ABSENT: Councilmember Butt.

DIANE HOLMES  
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND  
(SEAL)

Approved:

GAYLE MCLAUGHLIN  
Mayor

Approved as to form:

RANDY RIDDLE  
City Attorney

State of California            }  
County of Contra Costa        }       : ss.  
City of Richmond               }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 27-12, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on March 6, 2012.