



## RECOMMENDATION RESOLUTION

### Historic Preservation Commission

**Recommendation Number: (2019-03RR):** Recommending that a sustainability purpose section be added to Article 5, Standard Guidelines for Sustainability, of the Historic Design Guidelines.

WHEREAS, the City's Comprehensive Plan, "Vision San Marcos: A River Runs Through Us," recognizes that the citizens of San Marcos "are conscious of preserving our rich historical past and will pursue future cultural enrichment"; and

WHEREAS, toward that end, the City boasts seven locally designated historic districts and eight locally designated landmarks while other structures and sites have been recognized at the national and state levels for their historical or cultural significance;

WHEREAS, the City Council has created a Sustainability Committee to provide focus for the City on implementing more sustainable practices;

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission established sustainability guidelines within the Historic Design Guidelines in 2014 (Resolution 2014-92R) to assist property owners in more sustainable practices in maintaining historic properties; and

WHEREAS, to uphold the goals of the Comprehensive Plan, the goals of the City Council's Sustainability Committee, and to preserve the City's historical and cultural resources for future generations, the Historic Preservation Commission has explored including a purpose statement within Article 5 of the Historic Design Guidelines.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission recommends that the San Marcos City Council consider the initial authorization of a text amendment, per Section 2.4.1.2 of the San Marcos Development Code, to Article 5 of the Historic Design Guidelines to include a purpose statement regarding sustainability substantially in the form attached.

Date of Approval: December 5, 2019

Record of the vote:

Attest:   
Griffin Spell, Chair, Historic Preservation Commission



## Proposed Amendment

### Article 5: standards for guidelines for sustainability

#### **Section C.5.1.1 Purpose**

**A. Before implementing any energy conservation measures to enhance the sustainability of a historic building, the existing energy-efficient characteristics of the building should be assessed. The key to a successful rehabilitation project is to identify and understand any lost original and existing energy-efficient aspects of the historic building, as well as to identify and understand its character-defining features to ensure they are preserved. The most sustainable building may be one that already exists. Thus, good preservation practice is often synonymous with sustainability. There are numerous treatments—traditional as well as new technological innovations—that may be used to upgrade a historic building to help it operate even more efficiently. Whether a historic building is rehabilitated for a new or a continuing use, it is important to utilize the building’s inherently-sustainable qualities as they were intended. It is equally important that they function effectively together with any new measures undertaken to further improve energy efficiency. The following guidelines offer specific guidance on how to make historic buildings more sustainable in a manner that will preserve their historic character.**