

**From:** [Sean Gallegos](#)  
**To:** [Los Altos Historical Commission](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Historical Commission Distribution  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 24, 2020 1:04:54 PM

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Dear Chair Lang and Commissioners,

I am forwarding a comment from a resident.

Thanks,

Sean

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**From:** james wing <jameswing@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 24, 2020 11:03 AM  
**To:** Sean Gallegos <sgallegos@losaltosca.gov>  
**Cc:** Jim Sandoval <jsandoval@losaltosca.gov>  
**Subject:** Historical Commission Distribution

Historical Commission Chair Lang and Distinguished Commission Members

Subject: Historical Commission 6-29-20 Meeting Agenda Item 3, Halsey House Restoration

**Please consider recommendation to Council requesting direction on Halsey restoration project indirect costs [Staff time]. Council has already approved use of only grant funding for all direct costs that are realistically obtained with small grants over several years. Mountain View restoration of Rengstorff House took 17 years of small grants and that may be the model for Halsey House. Recommendation should also include Council direction on priority of restoration project work requests for Los Altos staff [ mostly Engineering Staff]**

Indirect costs are mainly Los Altos staff time and some permit fees. Following is summary of staff tasks:

- Grant writing, application submittal, after award status reports.
- Selection and supervision of contract engineering design to ensure Los Altos procedures and building codes are followed. Design drawing code check and reviews. Get Co
- Contractor bidding and award process per Los Altos standards. Get Corps of Engineering approval and compliance with restrictions on what months construction can happen
- Oversee construction and make decisions on on-site design changes. Ensure that work zone is fenced off to protect Redwood Grove visitors.
- Provide inspections to ensure contractor work completed per design drawings
- Follow Los Altos completion of work procedures to obtain payment to contractor.

**Historic Structure Report [12/2019] report is incomplete should include the following items:**

- Northeast side of Halsey House is in Adobe Creek floodplain. Floods in 1976 and 1983 had standing water in northeast rooms. Flash flood in 2013 filled crawl space with water. Report does not include any mention of flood problems or how to address Corps of Engineering requirements for construction in floodplains and special conditions needed for exemptions.
- The two Halsey House electrical power poles on Redwood Grove property have wood rot and present a fire hazard if electrical power is restored. They connect to PG&E transformer located on Los Altos Hills end of Fremont Road and are responsibility of Los Altos not PG&E. Before any restoration can start, on site electrical power is needed that is not from noisy gas-powered generators.
- Fire Department pump truck access or Halsey House exterior fire proof materials are not noted in report. Fire hazard for Halsey House is on south side of house, with fire on southwest ridge jumping to Halsey House structure. Southside Halsey House Fire Department high capacity pump truck access is limited to end of Manresa Way and will use hydrant on Manresa Way near south Redwood Grove pedestrian gate. Southside access truck inside Redwood Grove needs to be provided before any restoration can start. Existing northside 8-ton bridge is not needed for Fire Department heavy pump trucks because any restoration will require interior water sprinklers. Fire Department does have a low capacity pump truck that can cross current bridge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Wing

Milverton Road

Los Altos

Historical Commission Chair Lang and Distinguished Commission Members

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