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A City of Los Angeles
Neighborhood Council
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November 17, 2021

Board of Harbor Commissioners
Port of Los Angeles
425 S. Palos Verdes Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Dear Commissioners:

The following Resolution was passed at the November 16, 2021 Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council Board & Stakeholder Meeting:

Whereas the origins of Star-Kist Company back to 1918, when it was founded as the French Sardine Company by Yugoslavian immigrant Martin J. Bogdanovich,

Whereas the Star-Kist Tuna Cannery Main Plant on 1050–1054 Ways Street dates back to 1952, when it held the distinction of being the single largest cannery in the world,

Whereas the building constitutes a vital link of Los Angeles' key role in the commercial fishing industry and remains an important example of what the cannery business entailed,

Whereas canneries are representative of the diverse social and ethnic history of the city;

Whereas Section 3.2.5 of the Port Master Plan states as one of the Port's goals to "Protect Historic Resources (...) including significant periods such as the era of (...) commercial fishing,"ⁱ

Whereas the building is also significant for its architecture:

- 1) the structure was designed by John K. Minasian, a prominent engineer and designer who was the chief engineer of the iconic Space Needle for the 1962 Seattle World Fair and served as the president of the California Board of Civil & Professional Engineer;ⁱⁱ
- 2) at the time, it was the single largest example of tilt-up construction built by private industry on the West Coast;
- 3) the building boasts an unusual level of architectural detailing on the harbor-facing façade;ⁱⁱⁱ

Whereas a study of the site conducted by Jones & Stokes in 2008 found it to be eligible for **national, state-wide** as well as **local** designation as a historic-cultural monument, and no substantial changes to the plant have taken place since this report was drawn up;^{iv}

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Whereas the site is included in “SurveyLA,” the Los Angeles Historic Resources survey conducted by the City of Los Angeles’ Office of Historic Resources,^v

Whereas the significance of this building has also been recognized by the LA Conservancy,

Therefore be it resolved the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council agrees with the 2008 Jones & Stokes evaluation over the 2021 assessment prepared by ICF^{vi} and requests that the Port of Los Angeles prepare an EIR on the planned demolition of the plant, as well as an RFP looking into ways to preserve and repurpose the structure, in line with the goals outlined in its Master Plan.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Louis P. Caravella
President
On behalf of the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council

ⁱ Port of Los Angeles, “Port Master Plan,” September 2018.

https://kentico.portoflosangeles.org/getmedia/adf788d8-74e3-4fc3-b774-c6090264f8b9/port-master-plan-update-with-no-29_9-20-2018 Accessed on 4 November 2021.

ⁱⁱ “Structural Engineers HALL OF FAME: John K. Minasian.”

<https://sites.google.com/site/sehalloffame/worlds-fair-engineers/john-k-minasian>. Accessed on 4 November 2021.

ⁱⁱⁱ Los Angeles Conservancy, “Star-Kist Tuna Cannery Main Plant.”

<https://www.laconservancy.org/locations/star-kist-tuna-cannery-main-plant> Accessed on 4 November 2021.

^{iv} Jones & Stokes, “Final Architectural Survey and Evaluation of the Star-Kist Plant, Terminal Island, Port of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.” San Pedro: Jones & Stokes for the Los Angeles Harbor Department, January 2008.

^v SurveyLA, “Los Angeles Citywide Historic Context Statement. Context: Industrial Development, 1850–1980,” especially p. 237. https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/ad40500b-cf5a-436e-8c80-a81606544c01/IndustrialDevelopment_1850-1980.pdf Accessed on 4 November 2021.

^{vi} ICF, “Final Historic Resource Assessment for Star-Kist Plant No. 4 and Associated Star-Kist Facilities. Port of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.” <https://kentico.portoflosangeles.org/getmedia/b736cf64-6550-4e72-8977-5a753a211135/star-kist-cannery-draft-is-mnd>, pp. 217–538, accessed on 9 November 2021.