

The City is moving forward to remove and destroy Kensington's historic streetlights

We have recently become aware of a City plan to remove and destroy the historic streetlights in Kensington, under the guise of doing desperately needed circuit upgrades. The first part of this project, set to begin immediately, affects Circuit #2 – with 56 streetlights slated for removal and destruction. The City's plan is to replace all our historic lights with new "decorative" streetlights located in "nearby" locations. All lights on the following streets are targeted for removal and destruction in this first phase.

These Empire-style metal lamps & poles date back to the 1920's/1930's – nearly 100 years. The City's own Historical Greater Mid-City Survey-San Diego Preservation Strategy in 1996 recognized these lights as an integral historic characteristic of this community. Some have been modified or replaced over the years, but most of them are the iconic lamps which contribute so much to the historic fabric of Kensington. It is important to understand there is no reason to believe the City will stop after destroying these first 56 – their plan is to remove/destroy ALL historic streetlights in Kensington as circuit upgrades are performed.

The City of San Diego mailed a letter to residents on Sep 23rd, announcing the beginning of construction. The project includes replacing the historic lights with 57 "new decorative lights". The reason we have been given for the City's unilateral decision to destroy the historic lights is the presence of lead-based paint on some older streetlights. (Note: ALL are slated for removal and destruction, whether they have lead paint or not.) We have obtained an estimated cost to re-furbish each streetlight, in place – no removal required – and including mitigation of lead-based paint for \$5000. The City's estimated cost to destroy/replace with new lights is \$12,500 each. Their plan calls for removing and destroying the existing historic lights in their original locations and installing new "decorative" lights somewhere "nearby". The Kensington MAD's will be responsible for paying an "as yet undetermined" portion of the associated costs – costs which the City has yet to provide.

To be clear – no one opposes the circuit upgrades. Much of Kensington has been without streetlights for a year or more. But the circuit upgrades should not be used as an excuse to remove and destroy these historic elements when there are better alternatives which are endorsed and supported by the community – the people whose taxes support the MAD's.

OUR CALL TO ACTION

GET OUR COMMUNITY INVOLVED. Talk to your neighbors. Talk to friends, inside and outside Kensington, who care about preserving San Diego's few truly historic neighborhoods. Educate everyone about the details of this project. This City project is formally known as **Kensington Heights #2 Series Circuit Upgrade Project**.

GET LOCAL MEDIA INVOLVED. We have reached out to Union Tribune staff writers David Garrick (david.garrick@suniontribune.com) and Michael Smolens (michael.smolens@utsandiego.com) to solicit their support. David Garrick authored an excellent article about the importance of Kensington's streetlights when the MAD's were formed in 2014. Write to these reporters and let them know this is an important issue for our community.

GET OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS INVOLVED. Write letters. Send emails. Call the people listed below. The Mayor's climate action plan calls for re-use and rehabilitation of existing assets. Removal/destruction of our streetlights directly conflicts with that plan. District 9 council member & current City Council President, Sean Elo-Rivera, needs to understand he has a choice: Step up and represent your constituents or be held accountable for the silence on this issue and his lack of response to our concerns.

Mayor Todd Gloria: mayortoddgloria@sandiego.gov

Mayor's Sr. Policy Advisor on Climate & Infrastructure - Randy Wilde: RWilde@sandiego.gov

Mayor's Community Representative - Lucero Maganda: LMaganda@sandiego.gov

Mayor's Chief of Staff - Paolo Avila: PAvila@sandiego.gov

District 9 City Councilman - Sean Elo Rivera: SeanEloRivera@Sandiego.gov

Elo Rivera's Chief of Staff - Lydia Van Note: LVannote@sandiego.gov

Elo Rivera's community representative - Naveed Haris: HarisN@sandiego.gov



KENSINGTON



SAVE

OUR LAMPS

**SUPPORT THE RESTORATION
OF KENSINGTON'S
HISTORIC STREETLIGHTS**