



CITY OF TUCSON
HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

City of Tucson Responses to concerns raised regarding the Section 106 Process as it relates to the Downtown Motor Apartments application for federal HOME funds.

- The City has received multiple comments from consulting parties and the public objecting to the determination that the undertaking, the construction of the 4 story affordable housing project, will have no adverse effect on the Barrio Libre Historic District. The confusion seems to lie in the definition of adverse effect under the regulations at 36CFR800.5(a)(1) which read “Adverse effects occur when an undertaking may directly or indirectly alter characteristics of a historic property that qualify it for inclusion in the Register. ” As such, to be an adverse effect the undertaking would have to diminish or remove one or more characteristics that made the property or district eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Under those criteria we do not believe that this undertaking will alter any of the characteristics of the Barrio Libre and the contributing properties within its boundaries to that made them eligible for listing in the National Register. This determination was concurred with by the Arizona SHPO and found reasonable by the ACHP.
- The City received two comments in which the writer stated that the City has refused to hold another public hearing concerning the adverse effect determination and suggested mitigation stipulations due to cost. This statement is inaccurate. The City stated that it was not required to hold another public meeting and that it believes that doing so would result in another highly emotional and non-constructive debate between the historic preservation stakeholders and the affordable housing stakeholders, the same as occurred during the previous public meetings. We believe the acceptance and posting of all written comments for all to do and see is more inclusive than holding a public meeting.
- The City received three comments concerning the inclusion of Spanish speaking members of the public. The Project Overview developed by the City and distributed to the public was written in both English and Spanish. The City’s website provides Google Translate that translates the webpages into multiple languages. The website also provides the statement “If you require an oral interpretation in a language other than English, please call (520) 791-4171.” The city uses the “Language Line” to assist us by providing translation into many languages.

