

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

116



FROM: Parks Department

SUBMITTAL DATE:
January 27, 2015

SUBJECT: Lawler Lodge County Historic Landmark Designation – District 3

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve and Authorize the designation of Lawler Lodge, as a Riverside County Historical landmark.

BACKGROUND:

Summary

At its regular meeting on November 12, 2014, the Riverside County Historical Commission recommended that your Honorable Board approve the designation of Lawler Lodge as a Riverside County Historical Landmark. This nomination has the support of the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District.

(Continued on page 2)

Scott Bangle
Parks Director

2015-001S-KH

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/>
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
SOURCE OF FUNDS:				Budget Adjustment: No	
				For Fiscal Year: 2014-2015	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY:
Alex Gann

County Executive Office Signature

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- A-30
- Positions Added
- 4/5 Vote
- Change Order

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District: 3

Agenda Number:

COUNTY
13-2

Departmental Concurrence

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FORM 11 Lawler Lodge County Historic Landmark Designation – District 3**

DATE: January 27, 2015

PAGE: 2 of 2

BACKGROUND:

Summary (continued)

HISTORICAL INFORMATION: Lawler Lodge began as a mountain retreat for famed Los Angeles attorney Oscar Lawler and his wife Hilda. On August 17, 1915 the Lawlers purchased 80 acres of land in Dark Canyon along the North Fork of the San Jacinto River for a grand sum of \$10 and began planning their mountain hideaway. Finished in 1919, the Lawler Lodge was built of native cedar trees which were in abundance in the San Jacinto Mountains. Once finished, it became the retreat for the Lawlers as they entertained several well-known guests.

Upon the death of Lawler's wife, Hilda, Oscar Lawler came up with the idea of deeding the property over to Riverside County to be used as a campground and park. In the deed, dated July 6, 1954, Lawler stipulated that:

"Said property shall be used . . . as a mountain camp ground and place of recreation for organized and supervised groups of normal boys and girls of school age (giving preference to youths of both sexes residing in Riverside County) such as (but not limited to) Boy Scout Camps, Girl Scout Camps, Four-H Clubs and Camp Fire Girls. The general purpose of such camp ground and place of recreation shall be to give the young people using it opportunity for experience in outdoor life, with recreational and educational features, nature study, protection of our forests and wild life, and the like."

The Lawler Lodge facility is located along the side of Dark Canyon in the San Jacinto Mountains of Riverside County, California. More precisely, it sits approximately 5 miles north of the town of Idyllwild at 19751 Highway 243, below the highway in a wooded ravine that has a year-round stream running just below the lodge.

Lawler Lodge is a rectangular structure approximately 30 feet in width and 50 feet in length. The structure is 2 stories tall with a below-grade cellar. The original portions of the building sit on rock and mortar foundations. There are gables at the north and south sides, with the roofline extending along the east and west sides in a clear span. The original split-log siding is visible in several places, especially along the east and west sides. The second story facades are shingled, and appear to have been shingled originally.

The western façade is almost invisible. It is set right against the graded slope of the canyon with between 2-3 and 5-6 feet of clearance. It has the original split-log siding for most of the length of the side, except for a small push-out structure that is shingled. Four original windows mark this side, and the building along this side appears to rest on a concrete retaining wall foundation.

The Lawler Lodge site is idyllic. The park consists of 80 acres of heavily-wooded lands and the lodge itself is the lowest-lying structure, sitting only about 10 feet above North Fork Creek. The lodge is a great example of rustic mountain retreats built of native timbers and stone.

Impact on Citizens and Businesses

There will be no foreseeable impact on citizens and local businesses.