

September 24, 2026

Carol Isen & Linda Stonier

2692-2694 Hilgard Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709

To: City of Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission

Subject: Structural Alteration Permit (#MSAP2026-0006)

Daley's Scenic Park Tract near 2692 Hilgard Avenue

We are not able to attend the October 1, 2026 hearing in person on the above-referenced subject. Please accept the following written public comment.

We are the long-time owners and occupants of 2692-2694 Hilgard Avenue. Our property sits at the gateway to the Daley Scenic Park Tract and directly across the street from the retaining wall that is the subject of your October 1, 2026 hearing.

For nearly as long as we have lived in the neighborhood, the retaining wall directly across the street from our property has been failing. Earlier this year, the City replaced a portion of the wall. However, the City did not take the final steps needed to integrate the repaired portion with the existing wall. A visual inspection indicates this plainly, including the absence of the thickly textured finish and the cap/shelf that is part of the wall's original design.

We attempted to communicate our concerns to the Public Works Project Manager, as well as with our City Councilmember. The Project Manager informed us that the project did not have sufficient funding to make the necessary change orders to address our concerns and that of our neighbors.

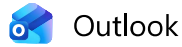
The Project Manager did add hydroseeding at the end of the project, in an attempt to remediate the significant disturbance to the hillside above the wall. Prior to and in preparation for the retaining wall reconstruction, the City removed several healthy legacy live oak trees. Unfortunately, the lack of the tree canopy has given way to rapid growth of fire prone weeds, which are both dangerous and unsightly, which the hydroseeding did not resolve.

Finally, the Department of Public Works did not include reconstruction of the failing staircase attached to the unreconstructed portion of the wall. The stairs are rapidly deteriorating. They are used routinely by pedestrians accessing Cedar Street and La Loma Avenue. The stairs are both a safety hazard and further comprise of the historic resources within the Daley Scenic Park Tract.

Thank you for your consideration.

9/29/26, 1:45 PM

Inbox - Riemer, Allison - Outlook



Oct. 1st Hearing

From Carol Isen <carolmindyisen@gmail.com>

Date Thu 9/24/2026 3:35 PM

To Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

 1 attachment (16 KB)

Letter.docx;

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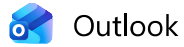
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Sent from my iPhone

9/29/26, 1:51 PM

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Attachment for inclusion in prior communication

From Carol Isen <carolmindyisen@gmail.com>

Date Thu 9/24/2026 3:37 PM

To Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

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