



DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING
RECOMMENDATION REPORT

City Planning Commission

Date: October 24, 2019

Time: After 8:30 A.M.

Place: Van Nuys City Council Chamber
14410 Sylvan Street, 2nd Floor
Van Nuys, CA 91401

Case No.: CPC-2019-1098-MS

CEQA No.: ENV-2019-1099-CE-ND

Related Cases: CPC-2010-714-MS
ENV-2010-715-ND

Plan Area: Citywide

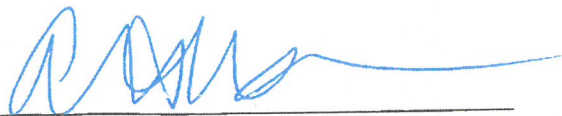
PUBLIC HEARING: Required

PROPOSED PROJECT: Citywide Design Guidelines Update

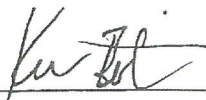
**RECOMMENDED
ACTIONS:**

- 1. Recommend** that the Commission determines, based on the whole of the administrative record, that the proposed guidelines are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15305 and 15308, and there is no substantial evidence demonstrating that an exception to a categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 applies; direct staff to file the Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk's office (see Exhibit B.1); and,
- 2. Recommend** that the Commission FIND, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15074(b), after consideration of the whole of the administrative record, including the Negative Declaration, No. ENV-2019-1099-CE-ND ("Negative Declaration") (Exhibit B.2), and all comments received, there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment; FIND the Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the City; and ADOPT the Negative Declaration.
- 3. Recommend** adoption of the proposed Citywide Design Guidelines (Exhibit A);
- 4. Recommend** that the Commission direct the Department to update the "best practices" sections of the Guidelines on an as-needed basis to reflect up-to-date design practices;

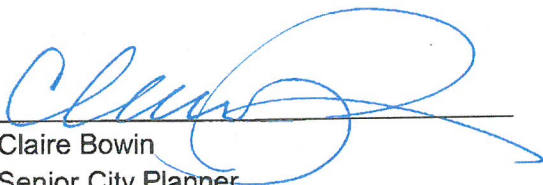
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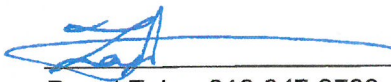
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Introduction

On June 23, 2011 the City Planning Commission adopted the first set of Citywide Design Guidelines (Guidelines). The Guidelines were established to carry out the common design objectives that maintain neighborhood form and character while promoting design excellence and innovative development solutions. The Guidelines were organized in three separate documents (residential, commercial and industrial) and covered a range of topics such as site planning and building orientation, entrances and relationship to adjacent buildings, building design and articulation, open space and landscaping, and parking and utilities.

The original Guidelines were developed in response to the City's General Plan Framework, which advocates that good neighborhood design is key to creating a livable city. The following goal, objectives, and policy of Chapter 5, Urban Form and Neighborhood Design, identify the importance of a baseline citywide design policy:

Goal 5A: A livable City for existing and future residents and one that is attractive to future investment. A City of interconnected, diverse neighborhoods that builds on the strengths of those neighborhoods and functions at both the neighborhood and citywide scales.

Objective 5.5: Enhance the livability of all neighborhoods by upgrading the quality of development and improving the quality of the public realm.

Policy 5.5.3: Formulate and adopt building and site design standards and guidelines to raise the quality of design Citywide.

Objective 5.9: Encourage proper design and effective use of the built environment to help increase personal safety at all times of the day.

Additionally, Program 24 of the Implementation Programs in the General Plan Framework Element calls for "the formulation of citywide development standards implemented through (1) guidelines to be adopted by the City Planning Commission (CPC) and/or Council, or (2) codification (ordinances) enacted by the City Council. The method of implementation should be determined after Framework Element adoption." In June 2011 the City Planning Commission adopted the Citywide Design Guidelines, utilizing its authority under Section 11.5.4 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to "adopt guidelines for the administration of this chapter if it determines that guidelines are necessary and appropriate."

In the spirit of the Department of City Planning's and the Mayor's goals to streamline the development review process and elevate the design quality of our City's public realm, last year the City Planning Commission concurred with the Department's initiation of an update to the Citywide Design Guidelines. The goal of the update is to establish up-to-date high-quality design standards citywide and reinforce consistency in the review of discretionary projects. The Guidelines aim to elevate the City's design expectations for new development and represent a comprehensive update and consolidation into a single, user-friendly document.

The Guidelines present strategies for the design of neighborhoods, buildings, outdoor spaces and public realm that meet the goals and objectives of the City's General Plan and work as an extension of adopted City policies. The Guidelines also complement other departments' documents, such as the California Building Code, the California Green Building Standards Code, the HCIDLA Architectural Requirements and the Planning and Land Development Handbook for

Low Impact Development (LID) by including up-to-date design solutions that the current Guidelines did not consider when they were originally drafted in 2011.

Background

In order to ensure a comprehensive update process the Department developed the Guidelines after extensive outreach with other City departments, design and development professionals and community organizations that regularly interact with project development teams. From the early stages of developing the document, staff engaged with, and received input from, different City departments including; Building and Safety, Bureau of Engineering, Cultural Affairs and the Mayor's Sustainability and Resiliency teams.

Staff also met early on with staff in the City Council offices to learn about the range of issues and concerns regarding the design of development projects in their respective districts. The briefings also served as an opportunity to inform the Council offices on the Guidelines and to ask for their participation in helping inform constituents about the update.

On November 8, 2018, the City Planning Commission established an ad hoc sub-committee on the Citywide Design Guidelines. The committee met on two separate occasions during the development of the draft document. The feedback of the sub-committee helped shape the document based on Commissioners' experience in making design-related decisions on multiple projects every month. The Department provided a status update, as well as additional information on the organization and the structure of the Guidelines, to the City Planning Commission on December 20, 2018.

During January and February 2019 the Department engaged in a public listening process that specifically included groups that regularly interface with the development process. Staff met with regional neighborhood council coalitions, Area Planning Commissions, professional organizations and design and development professionals including the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the American Planning Association (APA), the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) and the Central City Association (CCA). In total 17 meetings were held with the public to gather input on the applicability, process, and content for the Guidelines. The meetings typically included a workshop style exercise, where participants identified potential ideas and design issues that would be beneficial to include in the Guidelines. The information gathered during these exercises was organized and ranked and helped inform the updated Guidelines.

The most common suggestion from these public sessions focused on the need for additional shade, trees, and greenery, along with reduced tree removals and the need for locally-native plants and drought-tolerant vegetation. The second most common focused on stormwater retention, graywater, permeability, green alleys and water-use. The third most common stressed the importance of ground-floor orientation and its relation to the street, including transparency, visibility of entrances, and sense of arrival. As a result of these suggestions the important role of landscaping, stormwater and the pedestrian experience are substantially reflected in the document that was subsequently released for public comment at the end of March 2019.

Organization and application of the guidelines

The Citywide Design Guidelines are the cornerstone of the City's design review process and the primary tool used by the Department for evaluating the design features of proposed development. The overarching goal of the Guidelines is to foster design excellence in new projects seeking a discretionary action. The Guidelines also serve as a tool to help the public participate in discussions about new projects in their community.

The Citywide Design Guidelines have been simplified and contain ten core guidelines. Each guideline has a set of corresponding best practices which provides examples of how the guidelines can be achieved. To help structure the guidelines and communicate the City's design priorities, the Guidelines are organized around three design approaches: Pedestrian-First Design, 360 Degree Design and Climate-Adapted Design.

The Guidelines apply to all new development and substantial building alterations that seek a discretionary action for which the Department has design authority. While not all projects seeking entitlements from the City will be required to demonstrate their alignment with the Guidelines, all projects - even by-right projects - are encouraged to consider how their project design and building performance can be enhanced by incorporating the intent of the Guidelines into their project design.

Projects that are subject to the Guidelines will need to include as part of their application a written statement that describes how the project complies with each of the ten guidelines. Early consideration of how a project may align with each of the guidelines will enable a project to successfully achieve the design and performance outcomes outlined in the document. To provide further information on many of the topics, links to additional resources are also included in the new document.

Design Approaches

Pedestrian-First Design focuses on design strategies that create human-scale spaces and reflect how people actually engage with their surroundings, by prioritizing active street frontages, clear paths of pedestrian travel, legible wayfinding, and enhanced connectivity. 360° Design focuses on design techniques that consider equally all sides of a building's materials, massing, articulation and scale. Finally, Climate-Adapted Design focuses on solutions that respond to Los Angeles' exceptional Mediterranean climate as well as rapidly changing climatic conditions, by reducing the need for imported water, nourishing the local habitat and watershed, and limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

Guidelines

Each of the design approaches includes three to four guidelines that represent core architectural and urban design qualities that are valued by both the City and the community at large. Re-organizing the Guidelines to a single document with ten Guidelines provides clarity in regards to the City's design values and communicates a stronger design vision citywide.

Best Practices

The Guidelines are further accompanied by a set of best practices that illustrate different ways to satisfy the intent of each guideline. The best practices provide guidance on universal design issues as well as specific challenges faced by the City of Los Angeles. The best practices are

further organized into one of three spatial categories: Site Planning, Building Design, and Right-of-Way. The best practices are not mandatory but provide examples of how guidelines can be achieved. Applicants will be encouraged to use any combination of the best practices or an alternative design solution to achieve the intent of each guideline.

Conclusion

The Guidelines clarify the design qualities that the Department is seeking to achieve, provide clarity as to how those design qualities can be incorporated into a project, and work as a design review mechanism that facilitates interactions between project teams and Department staff. By consolidating the Guidelines into a single document and organizing them by the three Design Approaches, the Department takes a step towards streamlining the review process. Furthermore, by adding new topics and best practices the Guidelines establish an up-to-date platform on which it will continue to promote and guide thoughtful future development citywide.

CEQA Findings

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Department prepared a Negative Declaration and two Categorical Exemptions (Section 15305, Class 5 and Section 15308, Class 8), Case No. ENV-2019-1099-CE-ND.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15305 and 15308, the adoption of the Guidelines are categorically exempt from CEQA. Additionally, none of the exceptions to the categorical exemption identified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply. The proposed Guidelines will have no direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect environmental impacts.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15305, Class 5

The State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines section 15305, Class 5 establishes a categorical exemption for "minor alterations in land use limitations in areas with an average slope of less than 20%, which do not result in any changes in land use or density, including but not limited to: (a) minor lot line adjustments, side yard, and set back variances not resulting in the creation of any new parcel; (b) issuance of minor encroachment permits; and (c) reversion to acreage in accordance with the Subdivision Map Act (CEQA Guidelines, section 15305).

The Guidelines do not modify or change any existing zoning requirements or procedures and do not propose any changes to land use or density. Therefore, since the Guidelines only involve development guidelines that are not mandatory and do not result in any changes in land use or density, the project meets the criteria for a Class 5 Exemption.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15308, Class 8

The State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines section 15308, Class 8 establishes a categorical exemption for "actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment whether regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment (CEQA Guidelines, section 15308)."

The Guidelines provide design solutions that respond to the local climate by reducing the need for imported water (Guideline 10 – Citywide Design Guidelines Update), respecting the natural resources (Guideline 8– Citywide Design Guidelines Update) and limiting greenhouse gas emissions (Guideline 9– Citywide Design Guidelines Update). The Guidelines do not authorize or expand any new construction, but instead are intended only to address how a building affects and supports the character of the existing urban fabric.

Negative Declaration

Additionally, an Initial Study was prepared and found that due to the fact that the proposed Guidelines will not involve any changes to existing zoning or planned land uses, the proposed Guidelines will have no negative impact on the environment. The Negative Declaration was released to the public on April 25th. The review/comment period ended on May 28th and no comments were received. The Guidelines are a policy document and would not induce growth or new development.

Public Outreach and Communications

On March 22, 2019 the Department released the draft of the Guidelines for a 60-day public comment period. The Department also concurrently released a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document that provided information on the development and implementation of the Guidelines. The public was invited to provide comments on the Guidelines electronically on the Department's website or by directly submitting a public comment letter. Information about the release was distributed via the Department's public counters, website, social media and monthly newsletter. The City Council, neighborhood councils, the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Landscape Architects, American Planning Association and Building Industry Association also assisted in spreading information about the public comment period. During the comment period staff met with PlanCheck NC, one of the alliances of neighborhood councils, the Central City Association and the American Institute of Architects San Fernando Valley Chapter.

By the end of the public comment period, the Department received many thoughtful comments on the draft document, most of them in regards to the language and pictures used. Additionally, seven public comment letters were received; two were generally supportive of the Guidelines and included some recommended changes for improvement, four made general comments and suggestions, and one expressed opposition to the proposed Guidelines with the justification that the existing three guideline documents provide sufficient design guidance. The majority of comments have been incorporated into the final draft, attached to this report as Exhibit A. As a result of the comments the Department has reorganized the document to more clearly distinguish the difference between the individual guidelines and the role of the design considerations, re-branded the "design considerations" as "best practices" and added photographs and illustrations to clarify the intent of the guidelines.

A discussion around the major comments received is included below.

Relationship between the Guidelines and other City Documents

Questions were raised in regards to the relationship of the Guidelines with other City documents. The approval process for new development is guided by the General Plan and the Los Angeles Municipal Code as well as specific plans and other overlays that apply in certain areas. The General Plan is the policy document that sets the development vision for the City, providing policy direction for a wide variety of development-related topics including: land use, housing, mobility, open space, health, equity, conservation, air quality and infrastructure. The Zoning Code, part of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, along with specific plans and overlays contain regulations that govern the development of a particular property. These regulations include prescriptive requirements that may shape components of a building's site plan or architectural design.

Design Guidelines, by contrast, provide a less prescriptive, more flexible way of conveying design expectations and shaping proposed projects. The Guidelines are not intended to supersede the Municipal Code and/or other regulatory documents such as specific plans and overlays. Community Plans and Specific Plans can also contain design guidelines that better address the specific needs of different geographic areas and communities. The Guidelines apply to all areas, but are particularly applicable to those areas within the City that do not have adopted design guidelines. In cases where the Guidelines conflict with a provision in a Community Plan's Urban Design chapter, specific plan, overlays, or other local design guidelines, the community-specific requirement will prevail.

Difference between Design Guidelines and Development Standards

Some comments expressed concerns that the Guidelines would promote higher density projects, alter parking requirements or supersede existing zoning. The Guidelines do not promote or alter existing zone density, intensity, use, parking or other regulations in any way. When the Municipal Code contains development standards and provisions, the Guidelines help shape the design of developments, within the allowed parameters prescribed by the Municipal Code. The Guidelines do not override any zoning regulations. They are a benchmark against which to evaluate discretionary projects for their design elements and functional benefits in the context of their surrounding communities.

Guidelines for projects of every scale

In response to concerns about the design quality of smaller-scale residential projects, the Guidelines have been developed to ensure that high design standards are maintained in developments of any scale in the City of Los Angeles. The Guidelines apply to discretionary projects, independent of scale and are intended to provide a clear statement of the core design values of the City of Los Angeles. The Guidelines, categorized under the three design approaches, are carefully selected to promote flexibility in design and allow the projects to consider creative design solutions that meet the intent of each guideline's design goal. The best practices, under each guideline, provide an array of solutions that are not specific to scale or context.

Application of the Guidelines

Another comment asked for clarification in regards to the implementation process. The existing Guidelines are accompanied by an extensive checklist that applicants complete based on the proposed project's use. In the case of mixed-use projects, applicants often complete more than one checklist. With the updated Guidelines, applicants instead will provide a written justification that describes how, and to what extent, a project complies with each of the ten guidelines. The narrative will also need to indicate which of the drawing sheets and/or specifications includes information that validates the written explanation. The intent is to simplify the project review process by eliminating the need to go through multiple checklists but also add a higher level of design review that provides applicants with the flexibility to design unique, high quality projects and to demonstrate how guidelines are being met.

Intended purpose and flexibility

Some of the comments raised concerns that the Guidelines could be perceived as a list of prescriptive solutions that may not be applicable for all projects. Similarly a few comments expressed concern that the photographs could be interpreted as setting forth a specific design solution. Some comments also stressed that the Guidelines should not be utilized as a tool to inhibit design excellence.

The intent of the Guidelines is to communicate the City's core design values. The ten Guidelines are accompanied by best practices that indicate potential solutions that would assist a project in meeting the intent of each guideline. However, in order to facilitate creativity, while still elevating the role of design, applicants may pursue design strategies above and beyond those identified as

best practices. The photos are intended to demonstrate a variety of design solutions rather than proscribe a specific solution. The text in the document has been modified to clarify this.

A “living document”

Some members of the public also wondered if consolidating the existing guidelines into one single document and removing some of the existing ones could lead to an oversimplification. The Department rigorously examined and compared all of the existing guidelines to ensure that every aspect of design guidance included in the previous document is also incorporated in the Guidelines. The Department also reviewed an array of newly built projects to evaluate the implementation of the existing Guidelines and to identify their effectiveness. One of the major issues identified was that, based on the large number of guidelines and the lack of prioritization, projects tended to comply with guidelines of their preference and ignore others regardless of their importance. By reducing the number of guidelines the Department is establishing a framework that more clearly articulates the City’s design priorities.

The Department also recognizes the need for the Guidelines to be a “living document” that can be readily refreshed as new best practices and images of successful design solutions become available. As the new Guidelines are implemented the Department will be alert to opportunities to provide additional design guidance and/or prepare modifications to the document on an as-needed basis. The Department therefore seeks authority from the Commission to update the best practices sections on an as-needed basis as long as no modifications are made to the guidelines themselves.



CITYWIDE DESIGN GUIDELINES

Adopted by City
Planning Commission

XX.XX.2019



LOS ANGELES
CITY PLANNING
Urban Design Studio

FINAL DRAFT

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Version / Revision Dates			



Photo Courtesy of LADOT

PURPOSE

The guidelines are intended to:


- Foster design innovation and creativity;
- Promote design excellence;
- Communicate the City's design expectations;
- Facilitate fair and consistent application of design objectives;
- Protect investment throughout the City by encouraging consistently high-quality development;
- Encourage development of projects appropriate to the context of the City's climate and urban environment;
- Facilitate safe, functional, and attractive development; and
- Foster a sense of community and encourage pride and stewardship.

INTRODUCTION

TO THE GUIDELINES

The City of Los Angeles' General Plan Framework Element, together with each of the 35 Community Plans, promote architectural and design excellence in buildings, landscape, open space, and public space. These plans also promote the preservation of the City's character and scale. To this end, the Citywide Design Guidelines (Guidelines) establishes ten guidelines to carry out the common design objectives that maintain neighborhood form and character while promoting quality design and creative infill development solutions.

Both as an organizational tool and as a means of communicating critical topics that are of specific value to the City, the Guidelines are organized around one of three design approaches: **Pedestrian-First Design**, **360 Degree Design** and **Climate-Adapted Design**.



PEDESTRIAN-FIRST DESIGN

- Guideline 1: Promote a safe, comfortable and accessible pedestrian experience for all.
- Guideline 2: Carefully incorporate vehicular access such that it does not degrade the pedestrian experience.
- Guideline 3: Design projects to actively engage with streets and public space and maintain human scale.

360 DEGREE DESIGN

- Guideline 4: Organize and shape projects to recognize and respect surrounding context.
- Guideline 5: Express a clear and coherent architectural idea.
- Guideline 6: Provide amenities that support community building and provide an inviting, comfortable user experience.
- Guideline 7: Carefully arrange design elements and uses to protect site users.

CLIMATE-ADAPTED DESIGN

- Guideline 8: Protect the site's natural resources and features.
- Guideline 9: Configure the site layout, building massing and orientation to lower energy demand and increase the comfort and well-being of users.
- Guideline 10: Enhance green features to increase opportunities to capture stormwater and promote habitat.



Photo Courtesy of LADOT

APPLICATION OF THE GUIDELINES

The Guidelines apply to all new development and substantial building alterations that seek a discretionary action for which the Department of City Planning has design authority. While not all projects seeking entitlements from the City will be required to demonstrate their alignment with the design approaches, all projects - even by-right projects - are encouraged to consider how their project design and building performance can be enhanced by incorporating the intent of the Guidelines into their project design.

This document applies to all areas, but is particularly applicable to those areas within the City that do not have adopted design guidelines. In cases where the Citywide Design Guidelines conflict with a provision in a Community Plan's Urban Design chapter, specific plan, overlays, or other local design guidelines the community specific requirement shall prevail.

Projects that are subject to the Guidelines will need to include as part of their application a written statement that describes how their project complies with each of the ten guidelines. Early consideration of how a project may align with each of the ten

Guidelines will enable a project to more successfully achieve many of the design and performance outcomes outlined in the Guidelines.

The provisions set forth in the Guidelines identify the desired level of design quality for all developments. However, flexibility is necessary and creativity encouraged to achieve excellence in design. Therefore, the use of the words "shall" and "must" have been purposely avoided within the specific guidelines. Applications that do not substantially conform to specific guidelines should provide rationale for an alternative design approach.

The following sections provide a menu of best practices that might be utilized to meet the intent of each guideline. The best practices are not mandatory but provide examples of how guidelines can be achieved. Applicants are encouraged to use any combination of the best practices or an alternative design solution to achieve the intent of each guideline. The best practices are further organized into one of three spatial categories: **Site Planning**, **Building Design**, and **Right-of-Way**.



RELATIONSHIP OF THE GUIDELINES TO OTHER CITY DOCUMENTS

The approval process for new development is guided by the General Plan and the Los Angeles Municipal Code including specific plans and other overlays that apply in certain areas. The General Plan is the policy document that sets the vision for the City, providing policy direction for a wide variety of development-related topics including: land use, housing, mobility, open space, health, equity, conservation, air quality and infrastructure. The Zoning Code, part of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, along with specific plans and overlays contain regulations that govern the development of a particular property. These regulations include prescriptive requirements that may shape components of a building's site plan or architectural design. Design Guidelines, by contrast, provide a less prescriptive, more flexible way of conveying design expectations and shaping proposed projects but are not intended to supersede the Municipal Code and/or other regulatory documents such as specific plans and overlays.



PEDESTRIAN- FIRST DESIGN

Photo Credit: Jacek Dylag

Guideline 1: Promote a safe, comfortable and accessible pedestrian experience for all.

Guideline 2: Carefully incorporate vehicular access such that it does not degrade the pedestrian experience.

Guideline 3: Design projects to actively engage with streets and public space and maintain human scale.

Pedestrian-First Design focuses on design strategies that create human-scale spaces in response to how people actually engage with their surroundings, by prioritizing active street frontages, clear paths of pedestrian travel, legible wayfinding, and enhanced connectivity. Pedestrian-First Design promotes healthy living, increases economic activity at the street level, enables social interaction, creates equitable and accessible public spaces, and improves public safety by putting eyes and feet on the street.

01

GUIDELINE 1: PROMOTE A SAFE, COMFORTABLE AND ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN EXPERIENCE FOR ALL.

Design projects to be safe and accessible and contribute to a better public right-of-way for people of all ages, genders and abilities, especially the most vulnerable — children, seniors, and people with disabilities.

BEST PRACTICES

Site Planning

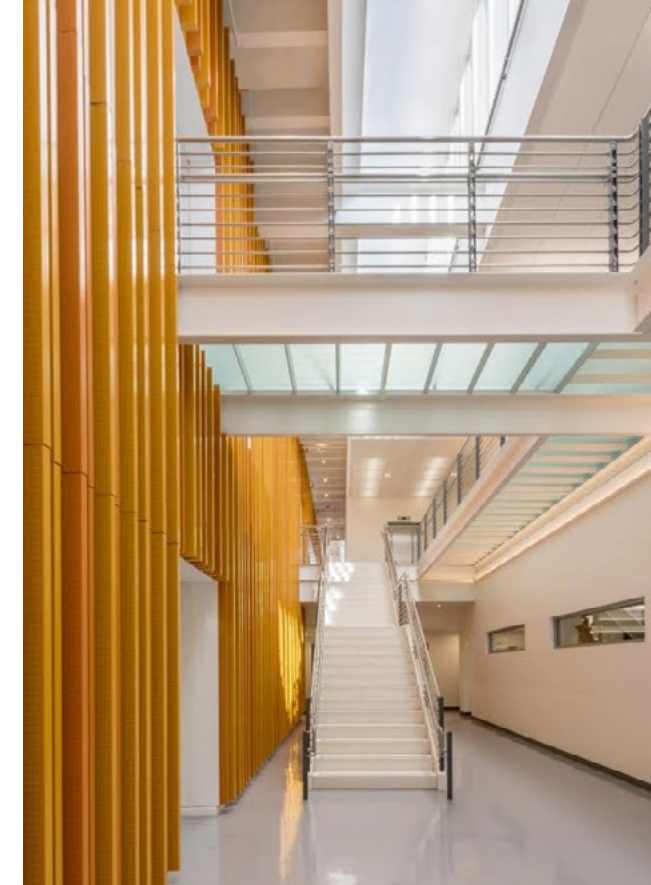
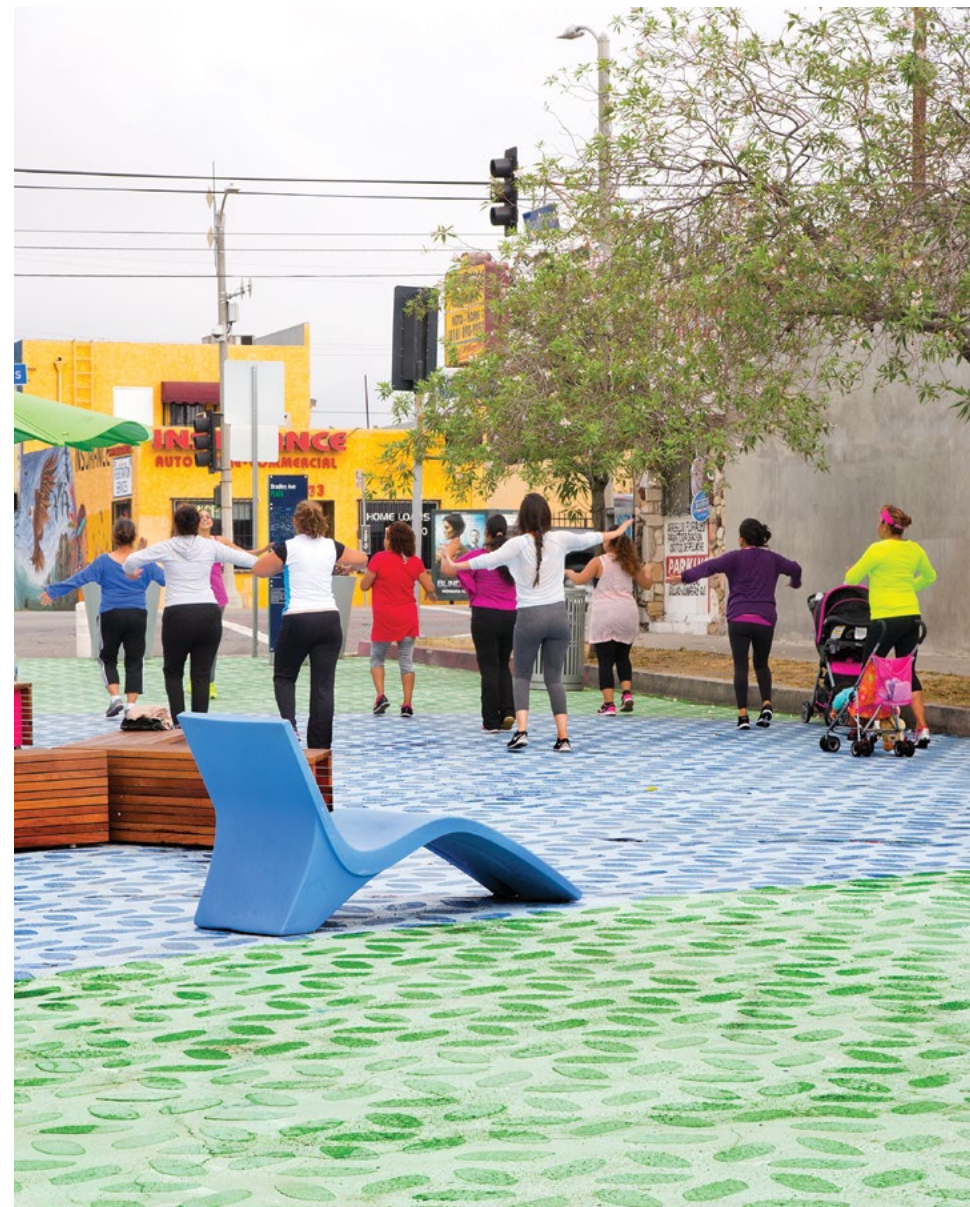
- Ensure that pedestrian pathways are accessible, clear, prominent and intuitive to navigate.
- Prioritize pedestrian circulation at the street level.
- Provide direct access to the surrounding neighborhood and amenities, including transit.
- Use ornamental low-level lighting to highlight and provide security for pedestrian paths and entrances. Ensure that all parking areas and pedestrian walkways are illuminated.
- Encourage transit-friendly design and building orientation that promotes pedestrian activity and provides convenient access to transit for pedestrians and persons with disabilities.

Building Design

- Integrate the accessible path of travel into the primary circulation approach to accommodate persons of all mobility levels.
- Prioritize the use of stairs by locating them near the building's entrance and directly on the primary paths of travel.
- Promote pedestrian activity by placing entrances at grade level or slightly above, and unobstructed from view from the public right-of-way. Entryways below street level should be avoided.

Right-of-Way

- Ensure that pathways for pedestrian travel are being kept clear of obstructions and maintain a minimum width of five feet on residential local streets and seven feet on arterial and collector streets.
- Introduce pedestrian lighting in addition to the roadbed lighting to the satisfaction of the Bureau of Street Lighting.
- In collaboration with the Department of Transportation, explore opportunities where appropriate to improve the comfort and safety of pedestrians' street crossing experience.



Above Left: Paseos and mid-block passageways encourage pedestrian activity and provide access to the surrounding neighborhood.

Above: An appealing, visible stair increases opportunities for daily physical activity. Photo Credit: Perkins&Will, City of Los Angeles.

Left: Public spaces that are easily accessible and support recreational activities contribute significantly to an active street environment. Photo courtesy of LADOT.

Resources:

- Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines: <http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards>
- Proposition 218: <http://bsl.lacity.org/prop-218.html>
- Transfers Design Guide: http://media.metro.net/projects_studies/toc/images/Metro_Transfers_Design_Guide_2018-0312.pdf
- Metro First & Last Mile Strategic Plan: https://media.metro.net/docs/First_Last_Mile_Strategic_Plan.pdf
- Mobility Plan 2035: planning.lacity.org/documents/policy/mobilityplnmemo.pdf
- Design Resource 3: Tree Wells: planning4la.org/odoc/UrbanDesign/Tree_Wells.pdf

02

GUIDELINE 2: CAREFULLY INCORPORATE VEHICULAR ACCESS SUCH THAT IT DOES NOT DISCOURAGE AND/OR INHIBIT THE PEDESTRIAN EXPERIENCE.

Design to avoid pedestrian and vehicular conflicts and to create an inviting and comfortable public right-of-way. A pleasant and welcoming public realm reinforces walkability and improves the quality of life for users.

BEST PRACTICES

Site Planning

- Prioritize pedestrian access first and automobile access second. Orient parking and driveways toward the rear or side of buildings and away from the public right-of-way. On corner lots, parking should be oriented as far from the corner as possible.
- Minimize both the number of driveway entrances and overall driveway widths.
- Do not locate drop-off/pick-up areas between principal building entrances and the adjoining sidewalks.
- Orient vehicular access as far from street intersections as possible.
- Place drive-thru elements away from intersections and avoid placing them so that they create a barrier between the sidewalk and building entrance(s).
- Ensure that loading areas do not interfere with on-site pedestrian and vehicular circulation by separating loading areas and larger commercial vehicles from areas that are used for public parking and public entrances.

Right-of-Way

- Identify opportunities to incorporate “living” and/or “complete” street style improvements into the abutting street area.
- Utilize alleys and/or side streets for vehicular access where appropriate in lieu of interrupting a primary street with driveway entrances.



Above Left: Minimizing vehicular entrances improves the overall pedestrian experience. Photo Credit: KFA Architecture

Above: Utilizing the alleys for access and loading allows for an uninterrupted pedestrian realm on primary streets.

Left: A Living Street is a street designed to enhance environmental benefits while making the surrounding areas more livable, walkable and healthier.

Resources:

- Fitwel: <http://fitwel.org/>
- NACTO Design Guides: <http://nacto.org/publications/design-guides/>
- Complete Streets Design Guide: planning.lacity.org/documents/policy/CompleteStreetDesignGuide.pdf
- LADOT's Driveway Design Guide: http://ladot.lacity.org/sites/g/files/wph266/f/LACITYP_123016-DRIVEWAY%20DESIGN.PDF.pdf
- Bureau of Engineering- B-Permit Case Management: <http://engpermits.lacity.org/bpermits/>
- Design Resource 1: Living Streets: planning4la.org/odoc/UrbanDesign/Soil_Depths.pdf

03

GUIDELINE 3: DESIGN PROJECTS TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE WITH STREETS AND PUBLIC SPACE AND MAINTAIN HUMAN SCALE.

New projects should be designed to contribute to a vibrant and attractive public realm that promotes a sense of civic pride. Better connections within the built environment contribute to a livable and accessible city and a healthier public realm.

BEST PRACTICES

Building Design

- Locate active ground floor uses along primary street frontages.
- Use architectural elements to reduce the perceived mass of larger projects.
- Enclose or wrap podium parking areas with active uses, landscaping and/or architectural elements.
- Design and orient buildings to provide users with direct visual and physical connections to the abutting public rights-of-way.
- Locate windows, balconies and courtyards to provide views onto sidewalks and gathering spaces.
- Avoid long blank walls where pedestrian activity is anticipated.
- Locate the majority of code-required open space at the ground level in a manner that is equally accessible to all residential units to promote safety and the use of outdoor areas. In mid- and high-rise buildings, podiums between buildings and rooftop areas can be used as common areas.
- Ensure that ground floor uses maintain a high degree of transparency and maximize a visual connection to the street by providing clear and unobstructed windows, free of reflective glass coatings, exterior mounted gates, or security grills.

Right-of-Way

- Maintain and improve existing alleys with appropriate lighting and other design features (landscaping, art, etc.) to screen blank walls or parking, where space is available.
- Identify opportunities to utilize the curb lane for one or more of the following: bus boarding pad, bicycle or scooter parking, passenger pick-up and drop-off areas, bicycle lane or parklet, in collaboration with Department of Transportation.
- Employ community-serving assets within the sidewalk area as described in the Great Streets DIY Guide.



Above Left: Active, transparent ground floors are a key element of a pleasant sidewalk experience.

Above: A curbside lane on the roadway can be utilized for bicycle or scooter parking or as a pop-up plaza/parklet to create people-oriented spaces.

Left: Architectural elements and/or landscape features can be used to screen podium parking areas and complement the public environment.



Resources:

- Great Streets DIY Guide: <http://lagreatstreets.org/diymanual>
- Advisory Notice Relative to Above-Grade Parking: planning.lacity.org/documents/policy/cpc_policies/CPC_AN_GradeParking.pdf



Guideline 4: Organize and shape projects to recognize and respect surrounding context.

Guideline 5: Express a clear and coherent architectural idea.

Guideline 6: Provide amenities that support community building and provide an inviting, comfortable user experience.

Guideline 7: Carefully arrange design elements and uses to protect site users.

360 Degree Design focuses on design techniques that equally consider all sides of a building's use of materials, massing, articulation, and scale. 360 Degree Design demonstrates that all spaces matter and design should be approached holistically. A project's contribution to the overall experience of a city is measured by its relationship to its surrounding context, in all directions.

04

GUIDELINE 4: ORGANIZE AND SHAPE PROJECTS TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT SURROUNDING CONTEXT.

New projects should respond to the local area context, the public realm and the relationships with adjacent buildings and should be shaped to consider the quality and functionality of the urban fabric.

BEST PRACTICES

Site Planning

- Lay out the site to ensure that access and building entrances are clearly legible.
- Locate and shape buildings to minimize disrupting users of neighboring buildings.
- Minimize shadows and unnecessary shading on surrounding buildings, parks and open spaces.
- Site and shape buildings to maintain public views of important structures, places and natural landscape features.
- Place and shape outdoor space to respond to, and/or connect with, nearby existing parks and open space areas.
- Locate, design and screen utilities, rooftop equipment, trash enclosures, storage materials and all noise, and odor generating functions such that they do not detract from the overall environment. Power lines, transformers, and wireless facilities should be placed underground or on rooftops when appropriately screened by a parapet.
- Long expanses of fences should incorporate openings, changes in materials, texture, and/or landscaping. Avoid materials such as chain link, wrought iron spears, and barbed wire.
- Use exterior surface materials that will reduce the incidence and appearance of graffiti.

Building Design

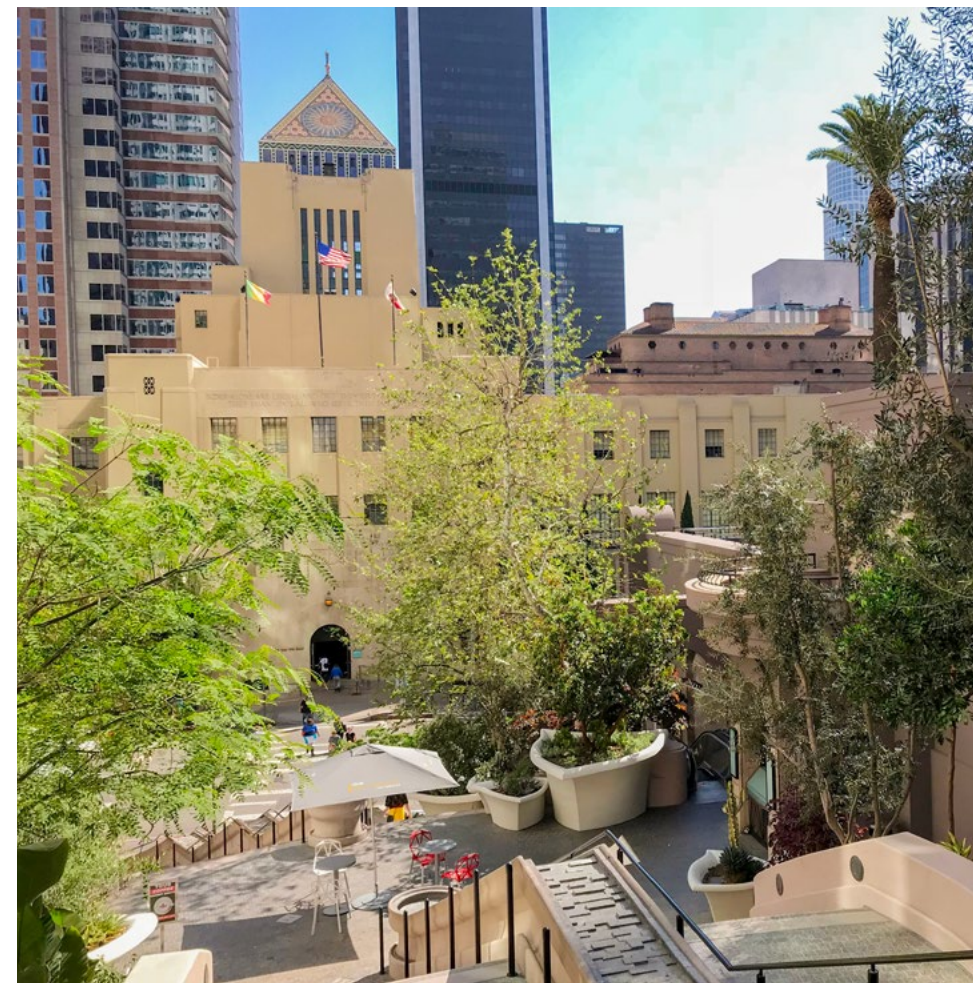
- Modulate building massing vertically and horizontally to a scale compatible to its context.
- Use exterior surface materials that will reduce the incidence and appearance of graffiti.



Glass facades embrace light and views, improve connections to the surrounding context and can help accentuate the building's main entrance.
Photo Credit: KFA Architecture, Iwan Baan Photography



An easy to locate, and clearly distinguishable, building entrance creates a welcoming user experience.



View corridors reinforce visual connections and shape the city's identity.

Resources:

- Great Streets DIY Guide: <http://lagreatstreets.org/diymanual>
- Advisory Notice Relative to Above-Grade Parking: planning.lacity.org/documents/policy/cpc_policies/CPC_AN_GradeParking.pdf

05

GUIDELINE 5: EXPRESS A CLEAR AND COHERENT ARCHITECTURAL IDEA.

The design of the site and the building should have a comprehensive concept experienced through scale, proportion, enclosure, and compositional clarity.

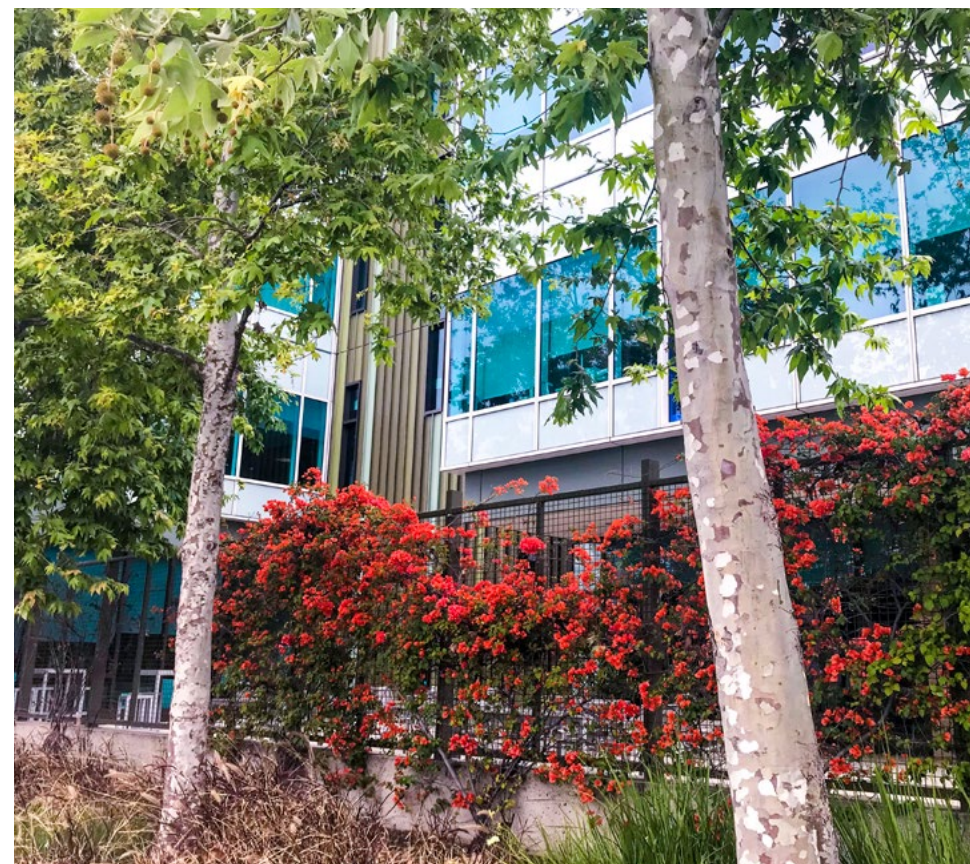
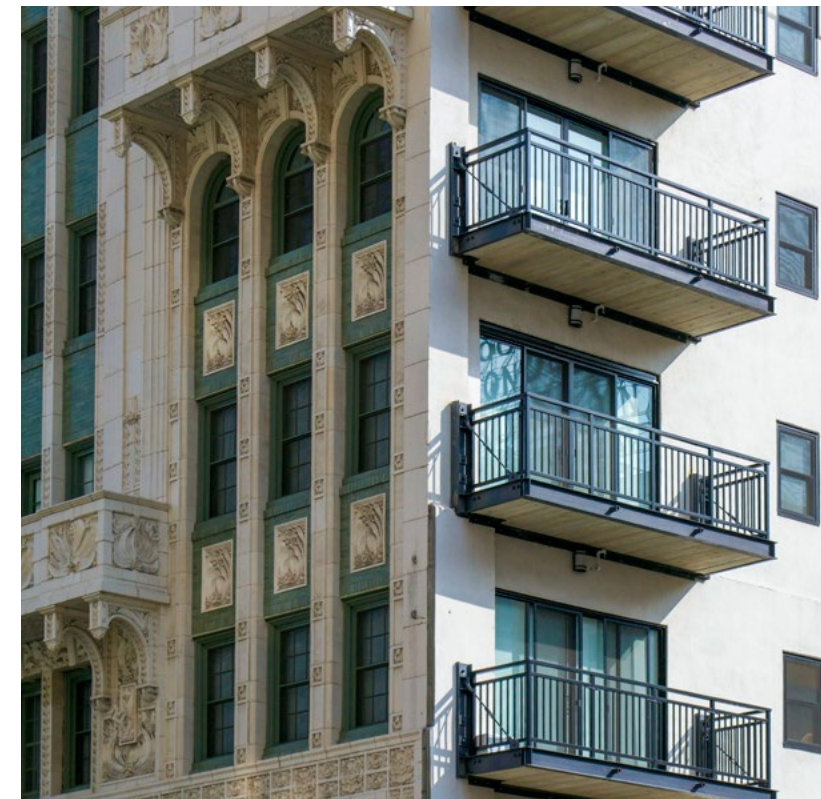
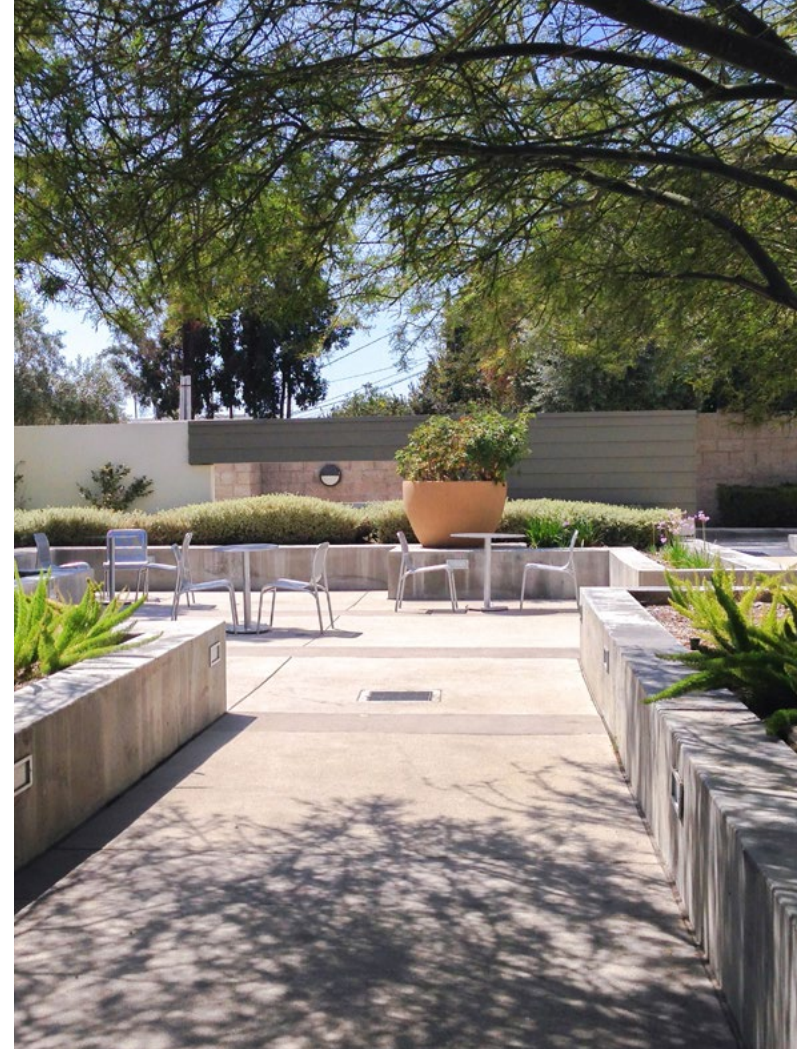
BEST PRACTICES

Site Planning

- Reinforce the overall design concept through the selection of both plants and hardscape elements.

Building Design

- Shape building design to respond to the setbacks, fenestration patterns and important horizontal datums of adjacent structures.
- Incorporate transitions such as landscaping, paving, porches, stoops, and canopies at individual entrances, and from the sidewalk to the front door. These methods should not protrude into required yards or negatively impact the overall street wall.
- Select materials and develop façade details that consider the views of the building from all sides.
- Preserve and restore architectural features and materials that are important in defining historic character.
- Windows should incorporate well-designed trims and details.
- Design lighting to enhance the ground floor environment or to emphasize key architectural features without projecting light into the night sky. Utilize adequate, uniform, and glare-free lighting, such as dark-sky compliant fixtures, to avoid uneven light distribution, harsh shadows, and light spillage.



Above Left: Landscape and hardscape elements that complement each other reinforce the site's design and shape attractive, welcoming spaces.

Above: Materials and treatments help reinforce the character of the built environment.

Left: Transitional spaces, window details and landscaping work together to express a cohesive identity.

Resources:

- Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties: <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/treatment-guidelines-2017.pdf>
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation: <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/rehabilitation/rehab/stand.htm>

06

GUIDELINE 6: PROVIDE AMENITIES THAT SUPPORT COMMUNITY BUILDING AND PROVIDE AN INVITING, COMFORTABLE USER EXPERIENCE.

Design to create livable places and desirable environments where people want to spend time engaging in social, civic, and recreational activities. Projects that encourage connections with a variety of transit modes and enhance their immediate environment with amenities are highly encouraged.

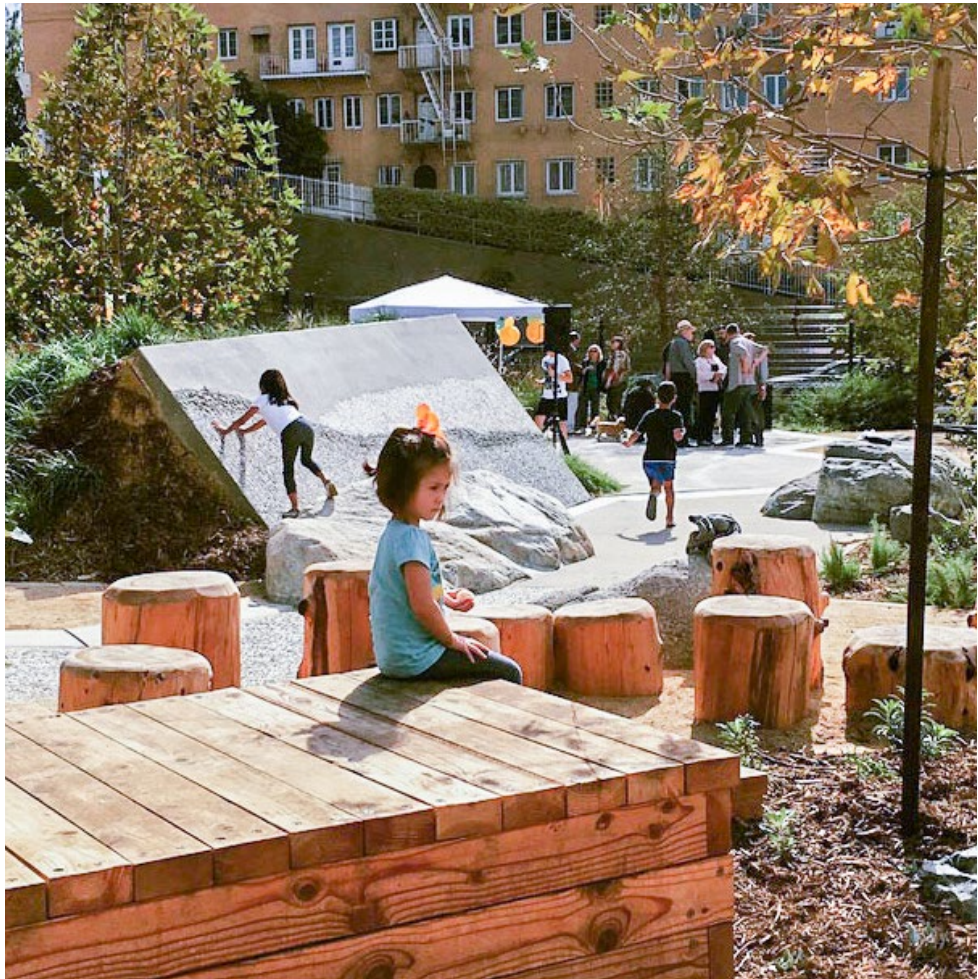
BEST PRACTICES

Site Planning

- Activate spaces by using benches, lighting, shade structures, trees, lockers and other supportive amenities.
- Collaborate with the Department of Cultural Affairs to identify opportunities to support art and culture in the project area.
- Integrate intergenerational programming and features that promote and facilitate creative play geared to building occupants and visitors.
- Create diverse and adaptable community gathering spaces that enhance opportunities for healthy activities such as fitness, play, cooking and gardening to engage participants of all ages.
- For buildings with six units or more, cluster code-required common open space areas in a central location, rather than dispersing smaller less usable areas throughout the site.
- Incorporate shaded open space such as plazas, courtyards, pocket parks, and terraces in large scale buildings.
- Design open areas to be easily accessible.
- Integrate bike-sharing and/or electric scooter parking near the public right-of-way.

Right-of-Way

- Install and maintain hydration stations in high traffic public spaces.



Above Left: Gathering spaces that allow for a variety of activities promote human interaction and can improve users' physical and mental health. Photo Credit: CANNDU Neighborhood Council

Above: Hydration stations are a convenient solution for offering drinking water while helping reduce the use of plastic bottles.

Left: Outdoor spaces can provide opportunities for creative play. Photo Credit: Ben Feldmann, Studio-MLA

Resources:

- Department of Cultural Affairs: <https://culturela.org/>

07

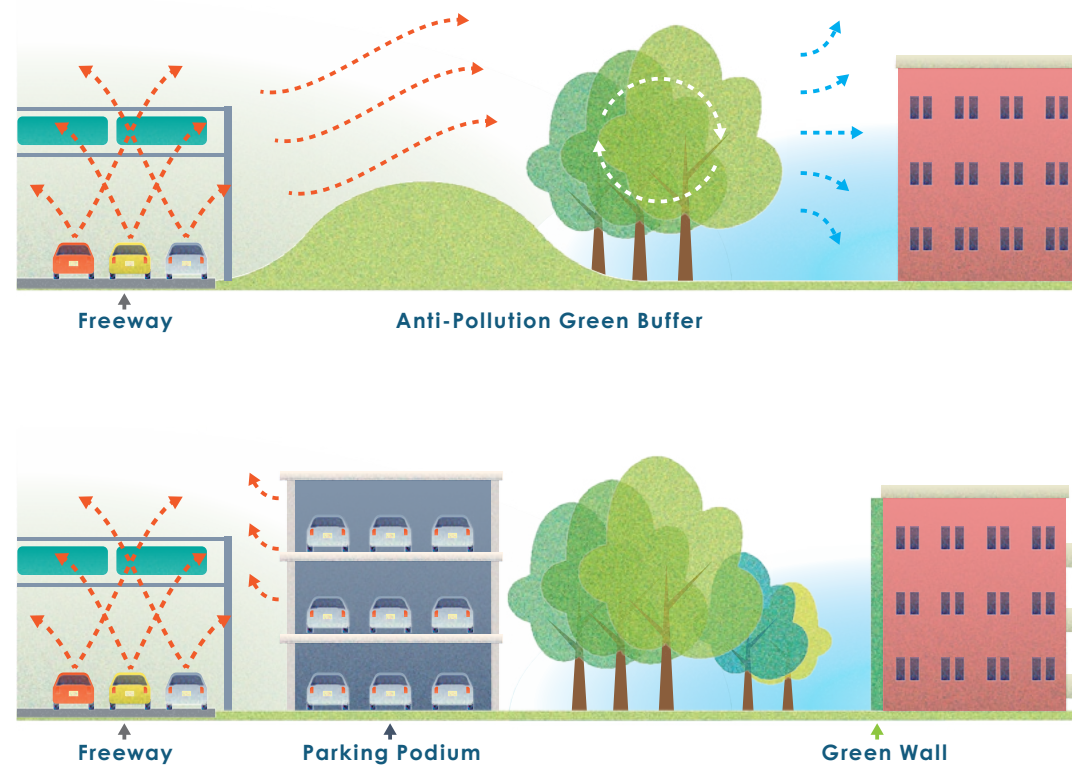
GUIDELINE 7: CAREFULLY ARRANGE DESIGN ELEMENTS AND USES TO PROTECT SITE USERS.

Design projects that help protect the health and well-being of their users by reducing exposure to any type of nuisances.

BEST PRACTICES

Site Planning

- Consider placing non-habitable uses such as parking structures, mechanical equipment and utilities adjacent to sources of noise and/or pollutants (i.e. freeways, industrial uses).
- Place habitable building spaces (living/sleeping areas), outdoor amenity areas and balconies as far from nuisances as possible.
- Utilize landscaping and/or berms to buffer occupants from nearby nuisances that emit noise and/or pollutants.



Above: Trees and shrubs are planted between the highway and the building to reduce exposure.

Left: Plants, berms and other buffers along major roads can help dissipate pollution and noise.

Resources:

- Freeway Adjacency Advisory: <http://zimas.lacity.org/documents/zoneinfo/ZI2427.pdf>



CLIMATE- ADAPTED DESIGN

Guideline 8: Protect the site's natural resources and features.

Guideline 9: Configure the site layout, building massing and orientation to lower energy demand and increase the comfort and well-being of users.

Guideline 10: Enhance green features to increase opportunities to capture stormwater and promote habitat.

Climate-Adapted Design responds to Los Angeles' exceptional Mediterranean climate as well as rapidly changing climatic conditions, by reducing the need for imported water, supporting the local habitat and watershed, and limiting greenhouse gas emissions. Climate-Adapted Design fosters easy access to the outdoors, sunlight and breezes, nourishes habitat, promotes energy efficiency, and enhances the well-being of people.

08

GUIDELINE 8: PROTECT THE SITE'S NATURAL RESOURCES AND FEATURES.

A city's natural resources improve air and water quality and provide a wide array of benefits to people and the local habitat. Designing to protect natural resources promotes a better quality of life and helps protect the City's urban ecology, enhancing the health and well-being of its residents.

BEST PRACTICES

Site Planning

- Work with the natural topography of the site to avoid dramatic and unnecessary grade changes or the need for massively scaled retaining walls.
- Protect existing mature trees and incorporate them as a design feature.
- Daylight and protect existing streams including intermittent stream flows.

Right-of-Way

- Retain existing healthy, mature street trees to the extent possible.



Above Left: Mature trees provide shade and year-round benefit to wildlife.

Above: Existing grade changes can be incorporated into the site and/or building design through landscaping.

Left: Mimicking natural hydrology supports healthy watersheds.

09

GUIDELINE 9: CONFIGURE THE SITE LAYOUT, BUILDING MASSING AND ORIENTATION TO LOWER ENERGY DEMAND AND INCREASE THE COMFORT AND WELL-BEING OF USERS.

Design projects to incorporate sustainable design and energy efficiency principles. Encouraging sustainability and innovation contributes to the well-being of current and future generations.

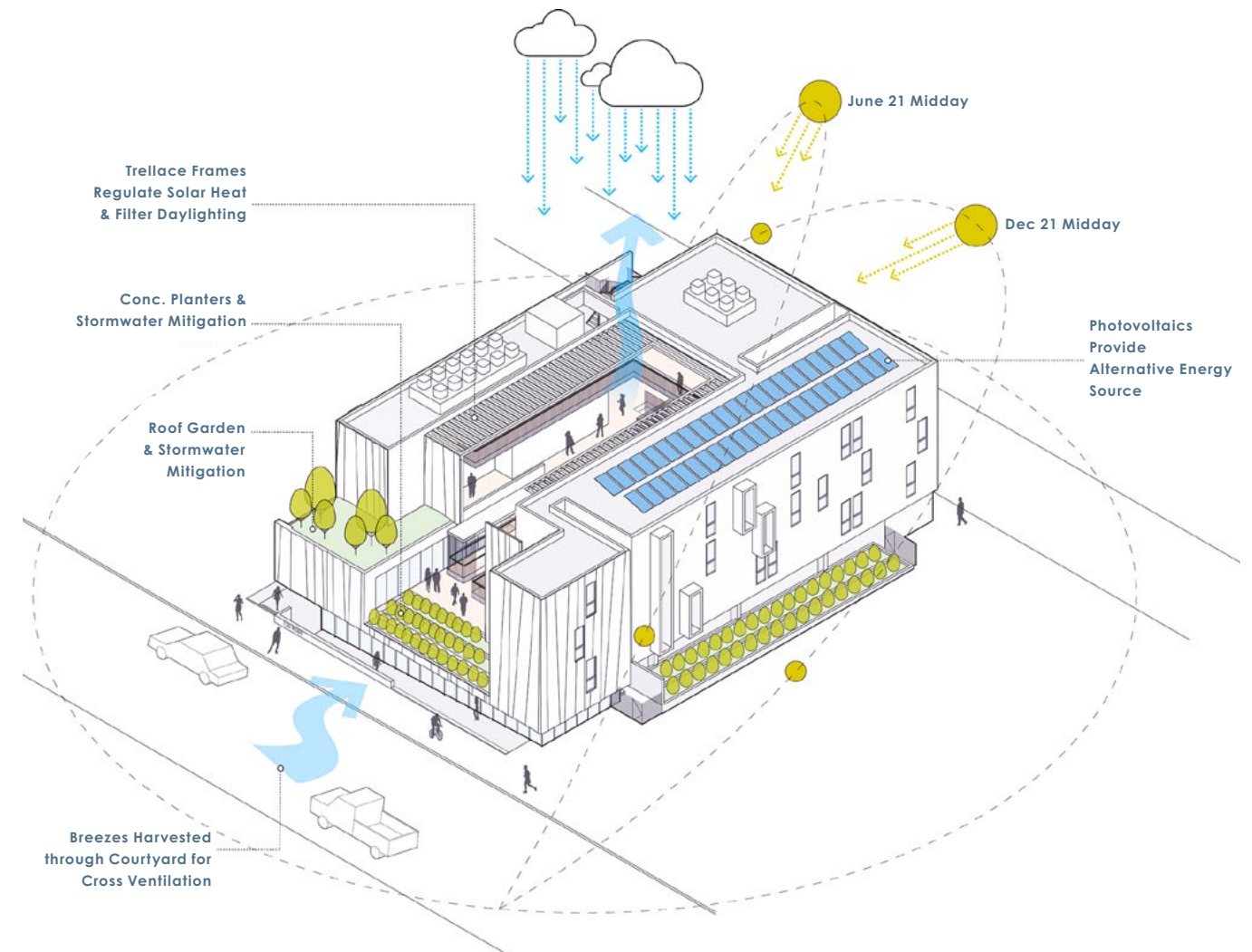
BEST PRACTICES

Site Planning

- Situate buildings to maximize cross-ventilation and daylighting opportunities while minimizing heat gain, especially from the south and west exposures.
- Plant trees and/or install shade structures to increase comfort and provide passive cooling opportunities. Provide canopy trees in planting areas for shade and energy efficiency, especially on south and southwest facing façades.
- Select plants that upon maturity will provide the intended scale, size, and structure.
- Install a publicly accessible Electric Vehicle charging station and/or space for car-share providers on the project site, if the site and context is suitable.
- Integrate solar powered lighting to increase energy efficiency.

Building Design

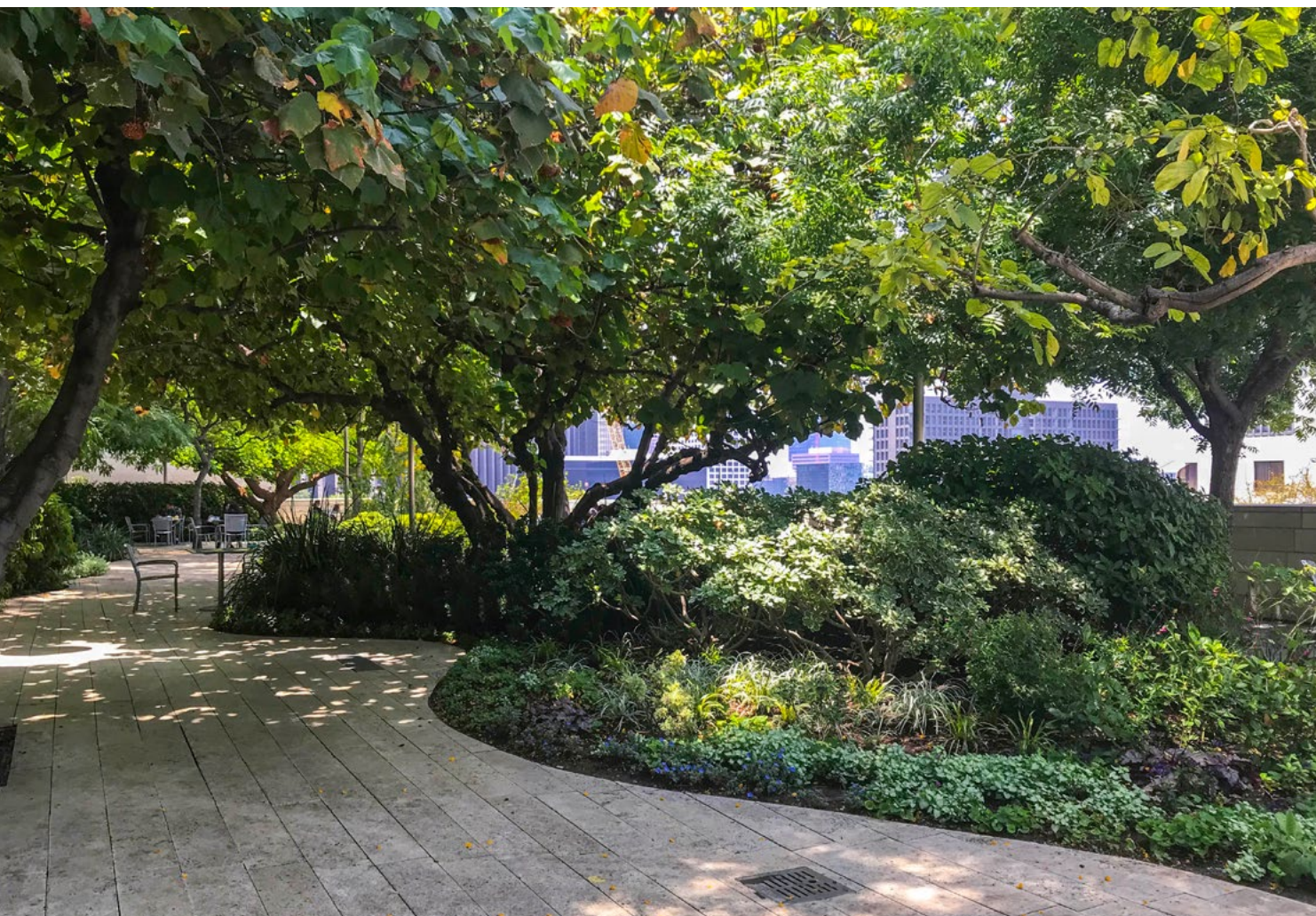
- Utilize elements such as shallow floorplates, operable windows and light-wells to provide occupants access to natural cross-ventilation and daylight.
- Employ various shading treatments appropriate to the solar orientation through overhangs, balconies, awnings and/or sunshades.
- At entrances and windows, include overhead architectural features such as awnings, canopies, trellises, or cornice treatments that provide shade and reduce daytime heat gain, especially on south-facing facades.
- Utilize natural light and ventilation for parking structures/podiums when possible, while maintaining architectural cohesion.
- Design exit stairwells to be an attractive first choice for vertical circulation.
- Install wayfinding signage at all elevator banks to encourage visitors to use the nearest stairway.
- Use white or reflective paint on rooftops and light paving materials to reflect heat away from buildings and reduce the need for mechanical cooling.
- Incorporate brise soleil features to reduce heat gain and deflect sunlight.
- Avoid the use of highly reflective building materials and finishes that direct heat and glare onto nearby buildings.



The incorporation of multiple sustainable features can dramatically increase the building's performance.
Image Credit: Brooks + Scarpa Architects, Inc.

Right-of-Way

- Plant shade-producing street trees at the minimum spacing permitted by the Division of Urban Forestry to create a consistent rhythm.
- Provide shelter from the sun and rain for pedestrians along the public right-of-way where the buildings meet the street. Extend overhead cover across driveways or provide architecturally integrated awnings, arcades, and canopies.



Above left: A well-designed and conveniently located exit stair can increase pedestrian activity and increase stair use.

Left: Landscaping that complements the scale and type of the project can strengthen the identity and character of the site.

Above: Natural light helps create a visually stimulating and productive environment for building occupants, while reducing the total building energy costs.

Resources:

- Sustainable Sites: <http://www.sustainable-sites.org/>
- Fitwel: <https://fitwel.org/>
- Center for Active Design: <https://centerforactivedesign.org/>
- LA's Green New Deal: http://plan.lamayor.org/sites/default/files/pLAN_2019_final.pdf
- Resilient Los Angeles: <https://www.lamayor.org/sites/g/files/wph446/f/page/file/Resilient%20Los%20Angeles.pdf>
- Passive House Institute: <https://passivehouse.com/>
- Living Building Challenge: <https://living-future.org/lbc/>

10

GUIDELINE 10: ENHANCE GREEN FEATURES TO INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES TO CAPTURE STORMWATER AND PROMOTE HABITAT.

Projects should be designed to meet the City's environmental ethos by enhancing the tree canopy and landscaping, reducing urban heat island effects and reducing stormwater runoff.

BEST PRACTICES

Site Planning

- Prioritize the infiltration of stormwater in locations where suitable soil conditions and topographies exist.
- Facilitate stormwater capture, retention, and infiltration, and prevent runoff by using permeable or porous paving materials in lieu of concrete or asphalt. Collect, store, and reuse stormwater for landscape irrigation.
- Select plant species that are adapted and suitable for the site's specific soil conditions and microclimate.

Building Design

- Employ features such as green roofs that include locally adapted plants.

Right-of-Way

- Select trees that are suitable for the climate and capable of attaining the largest canopy size possible given spatial constraints, in consultation with Bureau of Street Services' Urban Forestry Division.
- Include parkways where appropriate. Parkway design should be determined by local context and through discussions with the Bureaus of Engineering and Sanitation.
- Incorporate stormwater "best management practices" and other green infrastructure features.



Above: Green roofs can improve stormwater, mitigate the urban heat island and increase urban biodiversity by providing habitat for wildlife. Photo Credit: KFA Architecture, Iwan Baan Photography



Left: Trees and other landscape elements provide shade and visual interest and can be used to help separate pedestrians from vehicular traffic.

Bottom Left: Green infrastructure can help communities protect the environment and human health while providing other social and economic benefits.

Resources:

- Residential Parkway Guidelines: https://bss.lacity.org/Engineering/pdfs/Residential_Parkway_Landscaping_Guidelines_2015.pdf
- Urban Forestry Street Tree Guide: <http://bss.lacity.org/urbanforestry/streettreeselectionguide.htm>
- Low Impact Development Handbook: https://www.lastormwater.org/wp-content/files_mf/lidmanualfinal.pdf
- S-485-O Standard Plan for Green Alleys: <http://eng2.lacity.org/techdocs/stdplans/s-400/s-485-0.pdf>
- Developing an Urban Forest Management Plan for the City of Los Angeles: https://www.cityplants.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/10939_LA-City-Plants_FirstStep_Report_FINAL.pdf
- Design Resource 2: Soil Depths: planning4la.org/odoc/UrbanDesign/Soil_Depths.pdf
- Design Resource 4: Urban Parkways: planning4la.org/odoc/UrbanDesign/Urban_Parkway.pdf





Photo Courtesy of LADOT

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call or visit the Los Angeles Department
of City Planning, Urban Design Studio.

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FINAL DRAFT

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**Initial Study / Negative Declaration
Citywide Design Guidelines Update Project**

Environmental Case Number: ENV-2019-1099-CE-ND


Project Location: Citywide
Council Districts: Citywide

Project Description: The Project involves the adoption of new Citywide Design Guidelines (Updated Guidelines). The Updated Guidelines will supersede the citywide guidelines for multifamily residential, commercial and industrial projects previously adopted in June 2011 and will consolidate them into a single document. The purpose of the Updated Guidelines is to establish a more efficient and effective design review process.

The Updated Guidelines are intended only to address how a building affects and supports the character of the existing urban fabric. The Updated Guidelines will recommend and illustrate various strategies to promote public health and safety, walkability, and the use of active transportation, social interaction, and sustainable design. These guidelines are organized into the following three design approaches: (1) Pedestrian-First Design, (2) 360 Degree Design and (3) Climate-Adapted Design. Each design guideline is accompanied by a variety of design considerations that a project may employ in order to achieve the intent of the guideline. For greater clarity, these design considerations are further organized into one of three spatial categories: (1) Site Planning, (2) Building Design, and (3) Right-of-Way. Each design guideline is aspirational in nature and the extent to which a project applies one or more of the design considerations will depend largely on the scale and context of the development project.

The Updated Guidelines do not authorize or expand any development project, or authorize any ground disturbing or construction activities. These design guidelines are not mandatory. The Updated Guidelines are intended only to address how a building affects and supports the character of the existing urban fabric. The Updated Guidelines will not result in any incentives that would alter existing development patterns. The Updated Guidelines will not increase the building footprint, the number of units, the overall building height, or the amount of parking provided by each project. The Updated Guidelines do not modify or change any existing zoning requirements or procedures.

PREPARED BY/APPLICANT:
City of Los Angeles
Department of City Planning
Urban Design Studio

DOCUMENT FILED City Clerk's Office	No.	Certified by 	Date: 4-19-19
	16-19-018-PL		

April 2019

INITIAL STUDY

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INITIAL STUDY

1 INTRODUCTION

This Initial Study (IS) document evaluates potential environmental effects resulting from construction and operation of the proposed **Citywide Design Guidelines Update** project ("Project"). The Project is subject to the guidelines and regulations of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Therefore, this document has been prepared in compliance with the relevant provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines as implemented by the City of Los Angeles (City). Based on the analysis provided within this Initial Study, the City has concluded that the Project will not result in significant impacts on the environment. This Initial Study and Negative Declaration are intended as informational documents, and are ultimately required to be adopted by the decision maker prior to project approval by the City.

1.1 PURPOSE OF AN INITIAL STUDY

The California Environmental Quality Act was enacted in 1970 with several basic purposes: (1) to inform governmental decision makers and the public about the potential significant environmental effects of proposed projects; (2) to identify ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced; (3) to prevent significant, avoidable damage to the environment by requiring changes in projects through the use of feasible alternatives or mitigation measures; and (4) to disclose to the public the reasons behind a project's approval even if significant environmental effects are anticipated.

An application for the Project has been submitted to the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning for discretionary review. The Department of City Planning, as Lead Agency, has determined that the Project is subject to CEQA, and the preparation of an Initial Study is required.

An Initial Study is a preliminary analysis conducted by the Lead Agency, in consultation with other agencies (responsible or trustee agencies, as applicable), to determine whether there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment. If the Initial Study concludes that the Project, with mitigation, may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report should be prepared; otherwise the Lead Agency may adopt a Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

This Initial Study has been prepared in accordance with CEQA (Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.), and the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, §15000 et seq.).

1.2. ORGANIZATION OF THE INITIAL STUDY

This Initial Study is organized into four sections as follows:

1 INTRODUCTION

Describes the purpose and content of the Initial Study, and provides an overview of the CEQA process.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Provides Project information, identifies key areas of environmental concern, and includes a determination whether the Project may have a significant effect on the environment.

3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Provides a description of the environmental setting and the Project, including Project characteristics and a list of discretionary actions.

4 EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Contains the completed Initial Study Checklist and discussion of the environmental factors that would be potentially affected by the Project.

1.3. CEQA PROCESS

In compliance with the State CEQA Guidelines, the City, as the Lead Agency for the Project, will provide opportunities for the public to participate in the environmental review process. As described below, throughout the CEQA process, an effort will be made to inform, contact, and solicit input on the Project from various government agencies and the general public, including stakeholders and other interested parties.

At the onset of the environmental review process, the City has prepared an Initial Study to identify the preliminary environmental impacts of the project. The Initial Study for the Project determined that the Project would not have significant environmental impacts.

If the Project is approved, then within five days of the action, the City will file a Notice of Determination with the County Clerk. The Notice of Determination is posted by the County Clerk within 24 hours of receipt. This begins a 30-day statute of limitations on legal challenges to the approval under CEQA. The ability to challenge the approval in court may be limited to those persons who objected to the approval of the Project, and to issues that were presented to the Lead Agency by any person, either orally or in writing, during the public comment period.

1.3.1 Initial Study

At the onset of the environmental review process, the City has prepared this Initial Study to determine if the Project may have a significant effect on the environment. This Initial Study determined that the Project would not have significant environmental impacts.

A Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative Declaration (ND) is provided to inform the general public, responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and the county clerk of the availability of the document and the locations where the document can be reviewed. A 20-day review period (or 30-day review period when the document is submitted to the State Clearinghouse for state agency review) is identified to allow the public and agencies to review the document. The notice is mailed to any interested parties and is noticed to the public through publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

The decision-making body then considers the Mitigated Negative Declaration or Negative Declaration, together with any comments received during the public review process, and may adopt the MND or ND and approve the project. In addition, when approving a project for which an MND or ND has been prepared, the decision-making body must find that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment, and that the ND or MND reflects the lead agency's independent judgement and analysis. When adopting an MND, the lead agency must also adopt a mitigation monitoring program to ensure that all proposed mitigation measures are implemented to mitigate or avoid significant environmental effects.

INITIAL STUDY

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE	CITYWIDE DESIGN GUIDELINES UPDATE
ENVIRONMENTAL CASE NO.	ENV-2019-1099-CE-ND
RELATED CASES	CPC-2019-1098-MS

PROJECT LOCATION	CITYWIDE
COMMUNITY PLAN AREA	ALL
GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION	VARIOUS
ZONING	VARIOUS
COUNCIL DISTRICT	ALL

LEAD CITY AGENCY	City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning
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APPLICANT	City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning
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PHONE NUMBER	213.847.3709

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project involves the adoption of new Citywide Design Guidelines (Updated Guidelines). The Updated Guidelines will supersede the citywide guidelines for multifamily residential, commercial and industrial projects previously adopted in June 2011 and will consolidate them into a single document. The purpose of the Updated Guidelines is to establish a more efficient and effective design review process.

The Updated Guidelines are intended only to address how a building affects and supports the character of the existing urban fabric. The Updated Guidelines will recommend and illustrate various strategies to promote public health and safety, walkability, and the use of active transportation, social interaction, and sustainable design. These guidelines are organized into the following three design approaches: (1) Pedestrian-First Design, (2) 360 Degree Design and (3) Climate-Adapted Design. Each design guideline is accompanied by a variety of design considerations that a project may employ in order to achieve the intent of the guideline. For greater clarity, these design considerations are further organized into one of three spatial categories: (1) Site Planning, (2) Building Design, and (3) Right-of-Way. Each design guideline is aspirational in nature and the extent to which a project applies one or more of the design considerations will depend largely on the scale and context of the development project.

The Updated Guidelines do not authorize or expand any development project, or authorize any ground disturbing or construction activities. These design guidelines are not mandatory. The Updated Guidelines are intended only to address how a building affects and supports the character of the existing urban fabric. The Updated Guidelines will not result in any incentives that would alter existing development patterns. The Updated Guidelines will not increase the building footprint, the number of units, the overall building height, or the amount of parking provided by each project. The Updated Guidelines do not modify or change any existing zoning requirements or procedures.

(For additional detail, see "Section 3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION").

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Citywide.

(For additional detail, see "Section 3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION").

OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES WHOSE APPROVAL IS REQUIRED

(e.g. permits, financing approval, or participation agreement)

None

CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION

Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

In compliance with the requirements of AB 52, the City provided formal notification of the Project on February 25, 2019 to California Native American tribes that have requested notification. Copies of the respective letters are in the administrative record.

On February 27, 2019 the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation made a formal request for consultation on the Updated Guidelines. As of March 18, 2019, the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation and the City are in mutual agreement that the Project does not include any type of ground disturbance activities, and will not result in a potential significant impact to a tribal cultural resource. Therefore, the parties agree that no mitigation measures are necessary.

On March 21, 2019 the Fernandeseño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians made a formal request for consultation on the Updated Guidelines. As of April 8, 2019, the Fernandeseño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and the City are in mutual agreement that the Project does not include any type of ground disturbance activities, and will not result in a potential significant impact to a tribal cultural resource. Therefore, the parties agree that no mitigation measures are necessary.

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

DETERMINATION

(To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☒ I find that the Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions on the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find the Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find the Project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the Project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the Project, nothing further is required.

Danai Zaire
PRINTED NAME


SIGNATURE

City Planning Associate
TITLE

4/18/2019
DATE

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of a mitigation measure has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analysis," as described in (5) below, may be cross referenced).
- 5) Earlier analysis must be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR, or negative declaration. Section 15063 (c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A sources list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whichever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

INITIAL STUDY

3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 PROJECT SUMMARY

The Project (Updated Guidelines) will supersede the citywide guidelines for multifamily residential, commercial and industrial projects previously adopted in June 2011 and will consolidate them into a single document. The Updated Guidelines consolidate the most common, overarching urban design themes and best practices found across city policy and regulation and establishes consistent design expectations for community members and developers.

The Updated Guidelines are intended only to address how a building affects and supports the character of the existing urban fabric. The Updated Guidelines will recommend and illustrate various strategies to promote public health and safety, walkability, and the use of active transportation, social interaction, and sustainable design. The Updated Guidelines will provide design guidance for new development projects or those that require substantial alteration.

The Updated Guidelines do not authorize or expand any development project, or authorize any ground disturbing or construction activities. These design guidelines are not mandatory. The Updated Guidelines are intended only to address how a building affects and supports the character of the existing urban fabric. The Updated Guidelines will not result in any incentives that would alter existing development patterns. The Updated Guidelines will not increase the building footprint, the number of units, the overall building height or the amount of parking provided by each project. The Updated Guidelines do not modify or change any existing zoning requirements or procedures.

3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Citywide.

3.3 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

3.3.1 Project Overview

The Project involves the adoption of new Citywide Design Guidelines (Updated Guidelines). The Updated Guidelines will repeal the existing citywide guidelines previously adopted in June 2011. The Updated Guidelines will consolidate the 2011 citywide design guidelines for multifamily residential, commercial and industrial projects into a single document. The purpose of the Updated Guidelines is to establish a more efficient and effective design review process.

The Updated Guidelines will recommend and illustrate various strategies to promote public health and safety, walkability, and the use of active transportation, social interaction, and sustainable

design. The design guidelines are organized into the following three design approaches: (1) Pedestrian-First Design, (2) 360 Degree Design and (3) Climate-Adapted Design. Each guideline is accompanied by a variety of design considerations that a project may employ in order to achieve the intent of the guideline. For greater clarity, these design considerations are further organized into one of three spatial categories: (1) Site Planning, (2) Building Design, and (3) Right-of-Way. Each guideline is aspirational in nature and the extent to which a project applies one or more of the design considerations will depend largely on the scale and context of the development project.

The Updated Guidelines do not authorize or expand any development project, or authorize any ground disturbing or construction activities. These design guidelines are not mandatory. The Updated Guidelines are intended only to address how a building affects and supports the character of the existing urban fabric. The Updated Guidelines will not result in any incentives that would alter existing development patterns. The Updated Guidelines will not increase the building footprint, the number of units, the overall building height, or the amount of parking provided by each project. The Updated Guidelines do not modify or change any existing zoning requirements or procedures.

3.4 REQUESTED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

The list below includes the anticipated requests for approval of the Project. The Negative Declaration will analyze impacts associated with the Project and will provide environmental review sufficient for all necessary entitlements and public agency actions associated with the Project. The discretionary entitlements, reviews, permits and approvals required to implement the Project include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Pursuant to LAMC Section 11.5.4 adoption of the Citywide Design Guidelines Update

INITIAL STUDY

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

I. AESTHETICS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099 would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?**
- b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings, or other locally recognized desirable aesthetic natural feature within a state scenic highway?**
- c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?**
- d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?**

No Impact

The Updated Guidelines will not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista because the Updated Guidelines do not authorize any physical modifications which would result in any expansion of building footprint, floor area, or building height. As no new construction is specifically proposed with this project, there will be no impact to scenic vistas, or scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings, or other locally recognized desirable aesthetic natural feature within a state scenic highway.

Further, where scenic vistas have been identified to exist within the City, existing policies are already in place to protect them and this proposal would not change any of those protections. As for any future development project, compliance with existing Scenic Highways Plans, Community Plans, and the Los Angeles Municipal Code, as well as other applicable specific plans, overlays, potential impacts to scenic vistas and viewsheds would be mitigated on a case-by-case basis.

For any non-urbanized areas of the City, these Updated Guidelines will also not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. For any urbanized areas of the City, these Updated Guidelines will not conflict with any applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality. The Updated Guidelines are not mandatory. Instead these recommendations are available for use consistent with applicable zoning and other regulations.

These Updated Guidelines will not create any new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area. Instead, the Project is expected to reduce the potential for new sources of light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views because the Updated Guidelines contain provisions to encourage dark-sky-compliant lighting in new buildings. Based on the above reasoning there are no impacts from the Project. Any effect to the aesthetics deriving from the recommendations offered by the Updated Guidelines would be expected to be a beneficial aesthetic impact to improve and upgrade current and future conditions. The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?
- b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?
- c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?
- d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?
- e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines do not propose any new construction or ground disturbing activities. No rezoning is proposed as part of this Project and therefore the Updated Guidelines would not result in the conversion of any existing agricultural or forest land uses. Existing uses permitted within agricultural zones would be unaffected. The Updated Guidelines would not conflict with any existing zoning for an agricultural use, or with a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, the Project will not directly or indirectly result in the loss or conversion of any forest land, timberland, timberland zoned Timberland Production, Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the air basin is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines will not obstruct the implementation of South Coast Air Quality Management District plans, not violate any air quality standard, not contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. The Updated Guidelines do not propose any new construction or ground disturbing activities. No rezoning is proposed as part of the Updated Guidelines and therefore the Updated Guidelines would not alter the density or intensity of any use. As no new construction is proposed and no excavation would occur as a result of the projects adoption, the Updated Guidelines will not directly result in the cumulative net increase of any criteria pollutant, expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, or create objectionable odors.

The Updated Guidelines are expected to indirectly improve air quality by promoting walkability through design guidance that encourages pedestrian and bicyclist amenities. Individual future projects have the potential to generate fewer vehicular trips than existing conditions and therefore could potentially lessen cumulative long-term air quality impacts in excess of current conditions. Since the project will not result in no increase in construction activities; it would not result in new sources of objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
--------------------------------------	--	------------------------------------	-----------

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

- f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines do not propose any new construction or ground disturbing activities. The Updated Guidelines will not impact existing zoning and land use designations and will not create new development and therefore would not have a substantial adverse effect on any state or federally listed species, riparian habitat, wetlands, sensitive natural communities, migratory fish or wildlife species, adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Plan, trees, or marine animals.

Although there are vacant lots within the City that may contain remnant grassland habitat or natural drainage courses, they are generally located in a developed and urbanized region and are mostly segmented and lack the continuity that is consistent with those known to support any candidate, sensitive, or special-status species.

The Updated Guidelines would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as the City's Protected Tree Ordinance. The proposed Updated Guidelines encourage the preservation of existing mature trees, especially native species. Guideline 8 encourages the protection of the site's unique natural resources and features and includes design considerations that encourage the protection of existing mature trees. Individual

future projects will remain subject to preservation, relocation and replacement of protected trees pursuant to the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

Furthermore, there are no adopted Habitat Conservation Plans, or Natural Community Conservation Plans, or other approved habitat conservation plans in the City. For future construction or improvements, each individual project will be subject to CEQA, when applicable, and evaluated for proximity to any potential designated Significant Ecological Area that may exist within a respective Community Plan Area.

The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?

c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines do not authorize any physical modifications which would result in any expansion of building footprint, floor area, or building height. The Updated Guidelines would also involve no ground disturbing activities. The Updated Guidelines would not impact existing zoning

and land use designations and would not create any new development, produce any change of use, or affect the level of density. Therefore, the Updated Guidelines would not have a substantial adverse effect on any historical resource, archaeological resource, or human remains. The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

VI. ENERGY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines do not authorize any physical modifications which would result in any expansion of building footprint, floor area, or building height. As no new construction or any new operation is proposed with this project, there will be no impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation.

The Updated Guidelines also do not conflict with or obstruct any state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficient. Instead, the Updated Guidelines are expected to indirectly improve the use of renewable energy or increase energy efficiency by promoting climate-adapted design solutions. More specifically Guideline 9 encourages the use of design considerations that will lower energy demand and increase the comfort and well-being of users.

The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Directly or indirectly cause substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Be located on a geologic unit that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

iv) Landslides?

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18.1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

f) . Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

No Impact.

In 2015, the California Supreme Court in *California Building Industry Association v. Bay Area Air Quality Management District (CBIA v. BAAQMD)*, held that CEQA generally does not require a lead agency to consider the impacts of the existing environment on the future residents or users of a project. However, if a project exacerbates a condition in the existing environment, the lead agency is required to analyze the impact of that exacerbated condition on future residents and users of a project, as well as other impacted individuals.

The Updated Guidelines do not propose any new construction, any specific development project, or any ground disturbing activities. The Updated Guidelines do not involve any zone changes or changes to the existing uses or density. As such, the Updated Guidelines do not exacerbate any condition in the existing environment related to any earthquake faults, seismic ground shaking, soil erosion, or contribute to the instability of any soils or improper use of any septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Further, because the Updated Guidelines involve no ground disturbing activities, there would be no impact on any paleontological resources or unique geologic features.

The Updated Guidelines would have no impact related to seismic hazards, liquefaction, landslides, soil erosion, loss of topsoil, unstable geologic units, expansive soils, or wastewater disposal. The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines do not propose any new construction, any specific development project, or any ground disturbing activities. The Updated Guidelines do not involve any zone changes or changes to the existing uses or density. The Updated Guidelines will encourage future projects to consider the incorporation of more climate-adapted design. Climate-adapted design focuses on solutions that respond to Los Angeles' exceptional Mediterranean climate as well as rapidly changing climatic conditions, by reducing the need for imported water, nourishing the local habitat and watershed and limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

The Updated Guidelines are expected to indirectly decrease levels of greenhouse gas emissions by promoting sustainable design techniques and improvements to walkability through built form and urban design considerations that encourage pedestrian and bicyclist amenities. As such, the Updated Guidelines will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purposes of reducing greenhouse gases. The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations

intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?
- b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?
- c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?
- d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?
- e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?
- f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?
- g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines do not propose any new construction, any specific development project, or any ground disturbing activities. The Updated Guidelines do not involve any zone changes or changes to the existing uses or density. Because no physical construction is proposed, there would be no significant hazard to the public or the environment from the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials or from wildfires. The Updated Guidelines would not result in any safety hazard or excessive noise. The Updated Guidelines would not interfere with any adopted emergency response or emergency evacuation plans. The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;				
ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;				
iii. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or				
iv. Impede or redirect flood flows?				
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?
- b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?
- c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:
 - i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;
 - ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;
 - iii. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or
 - iv. Impede or redirect flood flows?
- d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?
- e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines do not propose any new construction, any specific development project, or any ground disturbing activities. The Updated Guidelines do not involve any zone changes or changes to the existing uses or density. The Updated Guidelines contain recommendations that encourage green features to increase opportunities to capture stormwater and promote habitat and seek to further protect existing water flows.

The Updated Guidelines would not impact run-off, any surface water body, groundwater supplies, flood, tsunami or seiche zones, hydrology, or water quality. No water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan would be impacted.

The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) Physically divide an established community?

b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines do not propose any new construction, any specific development project(s), or any ground disturbing activities. The Updated Guidelines do not involve any zone changes or changes to the existing uses or density. As such, the Updated Guidelines would not result in a physical division of an existing community. The Updated Guidelines are consistent with local land use plans, goals, and policies and in substantial conformance with the purpose, intent and provisions of the General Plan or any other plans, policies or regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The Updated Guidelines are intended to foster a sense of community by facilitating safe, functional, and attractive development that is walkable and pedestrian-oriented. The Updated Guidelines meet the intent of the General Plan Framework Element to enhance the livability of all neighborhoods by upgrading the quality of development and improving the quality of the public realm (Objective 5.5). Additionally, they meet the intent of Objective 5.8 to reinforce or encourage the establishment of a strong pedestrian orientation in designated neighborhood districts, community centers, and pedestrian-oriented subareas within regional centers, so that these districts and centers can serve as a focus of activity for the surrounding community and a focus for investment. The primary purpose of the Updated Guidelines is to communicate the citywide design expectations established through the ten Urban Design Principles, a part of the Framework Element. The project is expected to improve urban form and create more walkable, relative to their context, sustainable projects through the implementation of the Updated Guidelines on individual discretionary projects.

The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines do not propose any new construction, any specific development project(s), or any ground disturbing activities. The Updated Guidelines do not involve any zone changes or changes to the existing uses or density. The proposed update will have no effect on mineral resources locally or regionally. The Updated Guidelines will not result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan. The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

XIII. NOISE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:				
a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

b) Generation of, excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan, or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines do not propose any new construction, any specific development project(s), or any ground disturbing activities. The Updated Guidelines do not involve any zone changes or changes to the existing uses or density. Because there is no construction or operations attached to this update, there would be no change that would result in a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels, groundborne vibration levels, or result in a project that would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels. The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines do not propose any new construction, any specific development project(s), or any ground disturbing activities. The Updated Guidelines do not involve any zone changes or changes to the existing uses or density. The Updated Guidelines would neither induce population growth nor direct population growth to any new areas. The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) Fire protection?

b) Police protection?

c) Schools?

d) Parks?

e) Other public facilities?

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines do not propose any new construction, any specific development project(s), or any ground disturbing activities. The Updated Guidelines do not involve any zone changes or changes to existing land uses or density. Since the Updated Guidelines do not increase density, the project would not increase the number of residents in any given neighborhood and therefore, are not expected to result in an increased demand for parks, schools or other public facilities. The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

XVI. RECREATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) Would the project Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated?

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines do not propose any new construction, any specific development project(s), or any ground disturbing activities. The Updated Guidelines do not involve any zone changes or changes to existing land uses or density. As discussed, the Updated Guidelines are not expected to induce substantial population growth within the City. Since the Updated Guidelines do not increase density, the project would not increase the number of residents in any given neighborhood and therefore, are not expected to result in an increase in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. The Updated Guidelines do not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. However, the Updated Guidelines do include a recommendation that encourages future individual projects to consider developing additional outdoor amenities with usable and accessible open space. The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION¹

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to, level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines do not propose any new construction, any specific development project(s), or any ground disturbing activities. The Updated Guidelines do not involve any zone changes or changes to existing land uses or density. The Updated Guidelines do not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. No direct or indirect impacts are expected on existing traffic

¹ Until the City has adopted new Transportation thresholds (or July 1, 2020, whichever is sooner), question b will remain unchanged. Once new thresholds have been adopted, the Initial Study will be updated to reflect the 2019 Appendix G for question b.

patterns and road capacity. Adoption of the Updated Guidelines do not impact population growth or capacity. The Updated Guidelines do not generate new housing units and therefore will not increase the number of individuals who would require vehicular transportation. Vehicular traffic congestion would not be impacted because the project does not involve any zone changes or changes to existing land use designations, which would increase population or employment density in the City. However, the Updated Guidelines do encourage active transportation and enhanced connectivity, and along with the expansion of improvements to active transportation options in Los Angeles could even reduce the VMT on a per capita basis. Therefore, the project is not expected to impact the VMT within the City or to result in an increase in traffic.

Furthermore, the Updated Guidelines promote the inclusion of bicycle facilities, better connections with transit routes, pedestrian oriented design and a greater degree of walkability which could potentially reduce the amount of vehicular traffic and trips increase. The Updated Guidelines would not exacerbate the Vehicular Miles Traveled (VMT) on a per capita basis or result in an increase in the number of vehicle trips.

The Updated Guidelines are intended to support adopted policies, plans and programs that support alternative modes of transportation. The update encourages walkability, and improvements addressing pedestrian access, comfort and safety. The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. As recommendations the Updated guidelines do not increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses and do not result in inadequate emergency access. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is: Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1 (k)?

b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is: A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines do not propose any new construction, any specific development project(s), or any ground disturbing activities. The Updated Guidelines do not involve any zone changes or changes to existing land uses or density. Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) established a formal consultation process for California Native American Tribes to identify potential significant impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources, as defined in Public Resources Code §21074, as part of CEQA. As specified in AB 52, lead agencies must provide notice inviting consultation to California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of a proposed project if the Tribe has submitted a request in writing to be notified of proposed projects.

In compliance with the requirements of AB 52, the City provided formal notification of the Project on February 25, 2019 to California Native American tribes that have requested notification. Copies of the respective letters are in the administrative record.

On February 27, 2019 the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation made a formal request for Consultation on the Updated Guidelines. As of March 18, 2019, the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation and the City are in mutual agreement that the Project does not include any type of ground disturbance activities, and will not result in a potential significant impact to a tribal cultural resource. Therefore, the parties agree that no mitigation measures are necessary.

On March 21, 2019 the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians made a formal request for Consultation on the Updated Guidelines. As of April 8, 2019, the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and the City are in mutual agreement that the Project does not include any type of ground disturbance activities, and will not result in a potential significant impact to a tribal cultural resource. Therefore, the parties agree that no mitigation measures are necessary.

The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?**
- b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?**
- c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?**
- d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?**
- e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?**

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines do not propose any new construction, any specific development project(s), or any ground disturbing activities. The Updated Guidelines do not involve any zone changes or changes to existing land uses or density. The Updated Guidelines do not intensify the demand on any public utilities. The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

XX. WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines do not propose any new construction, any specific development project(s), or any ground disturbing activities. The Updated Guidelines do not involve any zone changes or changes to existing land uses or density. The Updated Guidelines do not impair any potential response or emergency evacuation plan. As no development is proposed as part of this

update, these Updated Guidelines do not exacerbate any pre-fire or post-fire wildfire risks or require the need for the installation or maintenance of associated any infrastructure. The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

No Impact.

The Updated Guidelines do not propose any new construction, any specific development project(s), or any ground disturbing activities. The Updated Guidelines do not involve any zone changes or changes to existing land uses or density. The Updated Guidelines do not include any new construction, therefore it would not impact any endangered fauna or flora, modify any special status species habitat. The Updated Guidelines do not reduce or restrict the range of endangered plants or animals because they do not propose to rezone property such that a further increase in development in sensitive ecological areas would occur, thereby threatening rare or endangered flora or fauna. The Updated Guidelines, if adopted, would elevate the importance of design, when evaluating discretionary projects and would consolidate the current citywide design guidelines into one document.

The Updated Guidelines have no impacts, therefore, there are no cumulatively considerable impacts. Further, the Updated Guidelines will produce no environmental impact which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Rather, the benefits of the Updated Guidelines are anticipated to be positive ones, as approved projects will be of a higher quality overall, prioritize active street frontages and enhanced connectivity, maintain compatibility with existing neighborhood character, and promote energy efficiency and climate-adapted design. Projects completed in compliance with the Updated Guidelines are expected to have fewer environmental impacts than those presently being constructed, by promoting walkability, human scale spaces, high quality public realm and climate- adapted design. As stated above, the Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the information set forth above, in the staff report related to this update and the substantial evidence contained in the whole of the record of proceedings, the City has determined that the adoption of the Updated Guidelines would have no impact on the environment and a negative declaration may be adopted.

COUNTY CLERK'S USE

CITY OF LOS ANGELESOFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
200 NORTH SPRING STREET, ROOM 395
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT****NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

(PRC Section 21152; CEQA Guidelines Section 15062)

Filing of this form is optional. If filed, the form shall be filed with the County Clerk, 12400 E. Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA 90650, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152(b) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15062. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21167 (d), the posting of this notice starts a 35-day statute of limitations on court challenges to reliance on an exemption for the project. Failure to file this notice as provided above, results in the statute of limitations being extended to 180 days.

PARENT CASE NUMBER(S) / REQUESTED ENTITLEMENTS

CPC-2019-1098-MS

LEAD CITY AGENCY

City of Los Angeles (City Planning)

CASE NUMBER

ENV-2019-1099-CE-ND

PROJECT TITLE

Citywide Design Guidelines Update Project

COUNCIL DISTRICT

Citywide

PROJECT LOCATION (Street Address and Cross Streets and/or Attached Map)

Citywide

☐ Map attached.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

☒ Additional page(s) attached.

The Proposed Project involves the adoption of new Citywide Design Guidelines (Updated Guidelines). The Updated Guidelines will supersede the existing multifamily residential, commercial and industrial guidelines, previously adopted in June 2011 and will consolidate them into a single document. The purpose of the Updated Guidelines is to establish a more efficient and effective design review process. The Updated Guidelines do not authorize or expand any development project, or authorize any ground disturbing or construction activities. See Attached CEQA Narrative.

NAME OF APPLICANT / OWNER:

CONTACT PERSON (If different from Applicant/Owner above)

Danai Zaire

(AREA CODE) TELEPHONE NUMBER

(213) 847-3709

EXT.

EXEMPT STATUS: (Check all boxes, and include all exemptions, that apply and provide relevant citations.)

STATE CEQA STATUTE & GUIDELINES

☐ STATUTORY EXEMPTION(S)

Public Resources Code Section(s) _____

☒ CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION(S) (State CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15301-15333 / Class 1-Class 33)CEQA Guideline Section(s) / Class(es) **15305 (Class 5) ,15308 (Class 8)**☐ OTHER BASIS FOR EXEMPTION (E.g., CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) or (b)(4) or Section 15378(b))

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION:

☒ Additional page(s) attached☒ None of the exceptions in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 to the categorical exemption(s) apply to the Project.☐ The project is identified in one or more of the list of activities in the City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines as cited in the justification.

IF FILED BY APPLICANT, ATTACH CERTIFIED DOCUMENT ISSUED BY THE CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT STATING THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS FOUND THE PROJECT TO BE EXEMPT.

If different from the applicant, the identity of the person undertaking the project.

CITY STAFF USE ONLY:

CITY STAFF NAME AND SIGNATURE

Danai Zaire

STAFF TITLE

City Planning Associate

ENTITLEMENTS APPROVED

FEE:

RECEIPT NO.

REC'D. BY (DCP DSC STAFF NAME)

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) NARRATIVE

Project Description

The Proposed Project involves the adoption of new Citywide Design Guidelines (Updated Guidelines). The Updated Guidelines will supersede the citywide design guidelines for multifamily residential, commercial and industrial projects previously adopted in June 2011 into a single document. The purpose of the Updated Guidelines is to establish a more efficient and effective design review process.

The Updated Guidelines will recommend and illustrate various strategies to promote public health and safety, walkability, and the use of active transportation, social interaction, and sustainable design. The design guidelines are organized into the following three design approaches: (1) Pedestrian-First Design, (2) 360 Degree Design, and (3) Climate-Adapted Design. Each guideline is accompanied by a variety of design considerations that a project may employ in order to achieve the intent of the guideline. For greater clarity, these design considerations are further organized into one of three spatial categories: (1) Site Planning, (2) Building Design, and (3) Right-of-Way. Each guideline is aspirational in nature and the extent to which a project applies one or more of the design considerations will depend largely on the scale and context of the development project.

The Updated Guidelines do not authorize or expand any development project, or authorize any ground disturbing or construction activities. These development guidelines are not mandatory. The Updated Guidelines are intended only to address how a building affects and supports the character of the existing urban fabric. The Updated Guidelines will not result in any incentives that would alter existing development patterns. The Updated Guidelines will not increase the building footprint, the number of units, the overall building height or the amount of parking provided by each project. The Updated Guidelines do not modify or change any existing zoning requirements or procedures.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15305, Class 5

The State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines section 15305 establishes a categorical exemption for “minor alterations in land use limitations in areas with an average slope of less than 20%, which do not result in any changes in land use or density, including but not limited to: (a) minor lot line adjustments, side yard, and set back variances not resulting in the creation of any new parcel; (b) issuance of minor encroachment permits; and (c) reversion to acreage in accordance with the Subdivision Map Act (CEQA Guidelines, section 15305).

As stated at the project description, the Updated Guidelines do not modify or change any existing zoning requirements or procedures and do not propose any changes to land use or density. Therefore, since the Updated Guidelines only involve development guidelines that are not mandatory and do not result in any changes in land use or density, the project meets the criteria for Class 5 Exemption.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15308, Class 8

The State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines section 15308 establishes a categorical exemption for "actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment whether regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment (CEQA Guidelines, section 15308)."

As stated above, the Updated Guidelines are exempt from CEQA Guidelines Section 15308, as the guidelines would provide design solutions that respond to the local climate by reducing the need for imported water (Guideline 10 – Citywide Design Guidelines Update), respecting the natural resources (Guideline 8– Citywide Design Guidelines Update) and limiting greenhouse gas emissions (Guideline 9– Citywide Design Guidelines Update). The guidelines do not authorize or expand any new construction, but instead are intended only to address how a building affects and supports the character of the existing urban fabric.

CEQA Section 15300.2 Exceptions to Categorical Exemptions

As explained below, the Project does not satisfy the criteria for exceptions to the application of Section 15300, Class 8 of the State CEQA Guidelines:

Exceptions to Exemptions

The State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines section 15300.2 outlines six exceptions to the use of a Categorical Exemption:

(a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -- a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply to all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

Classes 3, 4, 6 and 11 are not being considered. However, Class 5 is included above. While the Updated Guidelines apply citywide, there is no significant impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern. The Updated Guidelines do not authorize or expand any development project, or authorize any ground disturbing or construction activities. These development guidelines are not mandatory. The Updated Guidelines are intended only to address how a building affects and supports the character of the existing urban fabric. The Updated Guidelines will not result in any incentives that would alter existing development patterns. The Updated Guidelines will not increase the building footprint, the number of units, the overall building height or the amount of parking provided by each project. The Updated Guidelines do not modify or change any existing zoning requirements or procedures. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

The Updated Guidelines by itself, do not propose or authorize any development/construction activities. It does not change any land uses, building heights, densities or intensities. The Updated Guidelines suggest supplemental development guidelines on future construction related to discretionary projects in order to be more protective of the environment and to elevate the importance of design. The benefits of the Updated Guidelines are anticipated to be positive ones, as approved projects will be of a higher quality overall, have enhanced connectivity, maintain compatibility with existing neighborhood character, and promote energy efficiency and climate-adapted design.

Projects completed in compliance with the Updated Guidelines are expected to have fewer environmental impacts than those presently being constructed by promoting walkability, human-scale spaces, high-quality public realm and climate-adapted design. The Updated Guidelines do not authorize or expand any development project, or authorize any ground disturbing or construction activities. These development guidelines are not mandatory. The Updated Guidelines are intended only to address how a building affects and supports the character of the existing urban fabric. The Updated Guidelines will not result in any incentives that would alter existing development patterns. The Updated Guidelines will not increase the building footprint, the number of units, the overall building height or the amount of parking provided by each project. The Updated Guidelines do not modify or change any existing zoning requirements or procedures. Therefore, the Updated Guidelines will not result in a cumulative impact of a succession of projects of the same type and in the same place, and therefore this exception does not apply.

(c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

There are no unusual circumstances that would create the reasonable possibility that the activity would have a significant effect on the environment. The Updated Guidelines do not authorize or expand any development project, or authorize any ground disturbing or construction activities. These development guidelines are not mandatory. The Updated Guidelines are intended only to address how a building affects and supports the character of the existing urban fabric. The Updated Guidelines will not result in any incentives that would alter existing development patterns. The Updated Guidelines will not increase the building footprint, the number of units, the overall building height or the amount of parking provided by each project. The Updated Guidelines do not modify or change any existing zoning requirements or procedures. The Updated Guidelines will not foreseeably result in a significant impact to the environment. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

(d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

The Updated Guidelines will not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista because this Updated Guidelines do not authorize any physical modifications which would result in any expansion of building footprint, floor area, or building height. As no new construction is specifically proposed with this project, there will be no impact to scenic vistas, or scenic resources, including,

but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings, or other locally recognized desirable aesthetic natural feature within a state scenic highway.

Further, where scenic vistas have been identified to exist within the City, existing policies are already in place to protect them and this proposal would not change any of those protections. As for any future development project, compliance with existing Scenic Highways Plans, Community Plans and the Los Angeles Municipal Code, as well as other applicable specific plans, overlays, potential impacts to scenic vistas and viewsheds would be mitigated on a case-by-case basis.

For any non-urbanized areas of the City, these Updated Guidelines will also not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. For any urbanized areas of the City, these Updated Guidelines will not conflict with any applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality. The Updated Guidelines are not mandatory. Instead, these recommendations are available for use consistent with applicable zoning and other regulations.

(e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

The Updated Guidelines do not authorize or expand any development project, or authorize any ground disturbing or construction activities. These development guidelines are not mandatory. The Updated Guidelines are intended only to address how a building affects and supports the character of the existing urban fabric. The Updated Guidelines will not result in any incentives that would alter existing development patterns. The Updated Guidelines will not increase the building footprint, the number of units, the overall building height or the amount of parking provided by each project. The Updated Guidelines do not modify or change any existing zoning requirements or procedures. Because no physical construction is proposed, there would be no significant hazard to the public or the environment from the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials. The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Further, any future development that occurs would be required to comply with existing regulations related to hazardous materials. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

(f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The Updated Guidelines do not authorize or expand any development project, or authorize any ground disturbing or construction activities. These development guidelines are not mandatory. The Updated Guidelines are intended only to address how a building affects and supports the character of the existing urban fabric. The Updated Guidelines will not result in any incentives that would alter existing development patterns. The Updated Guidelines will not increase the building footprint, the number of units, the overall building height or the amount of parking provided by each project. The Updated Guidelines do not modify or change any existing zoning requirements or procedures. The Updated Guidelines are simply recommendations intended to provide design guidance for future discretionary projects when there would be some specific entitlement that would permit some level of design review. Additionally, the document includes design considerations that promote the preservation and restoration of historical architectural features and materials and maintain public views of important structures and places.

CEQA Findings

Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15305 and 15308, the adoption of the Updated Guidelines are categorically exempt from CEQA. Additionally, none of the exceptions to the categorical exemption identified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply. The proposed Guidelines will have no direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect environmental impacts.