

# Liaison Updates - October 2024



## Citywide

### Join Us at the [Taste of Soul Street Festival!](#)

**Saturday, October 19, 9AM – 5 PM** City Planning will be at this year's Taste of Soul (Booth R68 located on Crenshaw Blvd between MLK Blvd & 39th St.) with teams from Citywide, Project and Community Planning, the Office of Historic Resources, Racial Justice and Transformative Planning, Specialized Planners, and your local Planning Liaisons.

Visit our booth for resources, fun, games, giveaways, and learn how you can get involved in planning efforts that shape your community!

## Landscape and Site Design

On **October 24, 2024**, the City Planning Commission (CPC) will consider the new proposed Landscape and Site Design Ordinance, a significant update to the City's existing Landscape Ordinance. The meeting starts at 8:30 a.m. at Van Nuys City Hall (2nd Floor, 14410 Sylvan Street, Van Nuys, CA). You can provide your input online via Zoom online—check the meeting details three days before on the Los Angeles City Planning website.

We invite you to try out a [new online calculator](#) that project applicants will use to choose options for compliance with the Ordinance's flexible point system. Leave feedback on calculator [planning.urbandesign@lacity.org](mailto:planning.urbandesign@lacity.org)

To submit a comment, email [cpc@lacity.org](mailto:cpc@lacity.org) and include the case number: [CPC-2022-4856-CA](#).

## Citywide Adaptive Reuse Ordinance

The Draft Ordinance aims to turn existing underutilized commercial buildings into homes by repurposing these buildings instead of tearing them down. It went to the City Planning Commission (CPC) on October 10, 2024. It was approved with a minor amendment made to the allowable types of units, and the next steps include consideration by PLUM and the City Council. Case: [CPC-2023-5986-CA](#) Contact Holly Harper, [housingelement@lacity.org](mailto:housingelement@lacity.org).

## New Ways to Connect: Beverage and Entertainment Streamlining unit

Beginning **September 30, 2024**, all emails to the Los Angeles City Planning Beverage and Entertainment Streamlining unit, also known as BESt, should be forwarded to [Planning.BESt@LACity.org](mailto:Planning.BESt@LACity.org). The BESt Unit addresses inquiries about the sale and dispensing of

alcoholic beverages, including the Restaurant Beverage Program (RBP), Al Fresco Alcohol Authorizations, and Conditional Use Permits.

- BEST's new bilingual voice service has launched! Please call [\(213\) 202-5456](tel:213-202-5456) for more information and a new menu of options in English and in Spanish.

## **Executive Directive (ED1) No. 1 Updates**

ED1 is a plan that makes eligible projects for shelters and 100% affordable housing in Los Angeles less time intensive. These projects go through a special approval process. The latest [Executive 1 Implementation Guidelines](#) are now available. Revision adds new eligibility criteria to project review procedures including: Additional protections for existing residential tenants; Protection of historic resources; Environmental safeguards for very high fire hazard severity zones and projects in industrial areas; Enhanced project design standards, and; Limitations on Density Bonus off-menu incentives and/or waiver of development standards.

## **Processes and Procedures Maintenance Ordinance**

On July 5, 2024, the Los Angeles City Planning Commission (CPC) recommended that the City Council adopt the Maintenance Ordinance. This ordinance makes technical corrections to Ordinance No. 187,712 without changing any policies. These updates ensure the Zoning Code remains clear and modern.

On October 1, 2024, the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee recommended approval of the Processes and Procedures Maintenance Ordinance (Maintenance Ordinance) and referred the item to Council for consideration. On October 15, 2024, City Council adopted the PLUM Committee's recommendations and requested the City Attorney to prepare and present the draft ordinance for City Council consideration.

For questions or to join the interested parties list, contact Andrew Cruz at [andrew.cruz@lacity.org](mailto:andrew.cruz@lacity.org).

## **Updated CEQA Thresholds and Methodology**

The Department of City Planning has adopted the updated California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Thresholds and Methodology for Construction Noise, Vibration, and Historical Resources. These changes specify how much noise and vibration is acceptable during construction. The changes aim to protect people's health and ensure that noise isn't too disturbing. A fact sheet summarizing the updates to the CEQA Thresholds related to Construction Noise and Vibration is available at this link.

To join the Interested Parties list for the updated CEQA Thresholds and receive future updates, please email [mindy.nguyen@lacity.org](mailto:mindy.nguyen@lacity.org).

## **Housing Element Rezoning Program Draft Ordinances**

The Draft Ordinances went to the City Planning Commission (CPC) on **September 26, 2024**. For the most recent release of Ordinance Information and Materials click [here](#). Following CPC the next steps include the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee and then to the full City Council

for further consideration. Please note that the public comment period is now closed. Additional information and resources on the ordinances can be found on the City Planning [webpage](#). For questions about the adoption process, contact [housingelement@lacity.org](mailto:housingelement@lacity.org).

## **New Zoning Code**

City Planning is in the process of developing a zoning system and zoning code for the first time since 1946. The New Zoning Code aims to be more modern, efficient, user friendly, and responsive to the diverse needs and visions of our City's communities. You can learn about the new zoning system by watching our [Zoning Overview Videos](#), and the New Zoning Code by visiting [the New Code project page](#).

[Zoning](#) determines the permitted uses on a parcel and provides regulations for development, including height, bulk, use, and setbacks. The adoption of the [Downtown Community Plan](#) will mark the initial implementation of the New Zoning Code, and will expand to other neighborhoods as the Community Plans are updated throughout the City. Sign up [here](#) to receive updates on the Community Plan update.

The New Zoning Code is currently being reviewed by the City Attorney's Office for form and legality and is anticipated to be adopted later this year, and operational in early 2025. We will also be updating our Department's website with new resources to help everyone navigate the New Zoning Code.

## **Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA)**

A virtual information session on the [Climate Vulnerability Assessment \(CVA\)](#) was held on **October 15**. The Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) is being prepared to assess how climate change will impact different areas and communities. The CVA looks at physical and social vulnerability to extreme heat, wildfires, flooding, and other climate hazards, and will recommend adaptations to address these risks.

For any questions, please email the Climate Equity team at [planning.climate@lacity.org](mailto:planning.climate@lacity.org).

## **AI Fresco Deadline Extended to December 31**

The deadline for the temporary AI Fresco program has been extended, and all AI Fresco Temporary Authorizations will now expire on December 31, 2024. Businesses with these Temporary Authorizations must apply for [permits](#) to offer permanent outdoor dining beyond the temporary program. Since the review and inspection process can be lengthy, it is strongly recommended to apply early to avoid any disruptions.

## **Biologist Consultants List**

The Department will be creating a list of Qualified Biological Consultants. The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be released via RAMPLA (Regional Alliance Marketplace for Procurement). In order to view the RFQ and to submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ), interested applicants must register on [RAMPLA](#).

For additional information, email [planning.contracts@lacity.org](mailto:planning.contracts@lacity.org).

## Regional

### Cornfield Arroyo Seco Specific Plan

The [Cornfield Arroyo Seco Specific Plan \(CASP\) Update](#) was approved by the City Council's PLUM Committee on October 15, 2024. This update aims to support more affordable and mixed-income housing in the area near Chinatown, Cypress Park, and Lincoln Heights. The City Council must make a final decision on the project by October 30, 2024. You can check the meeting agenda online, 72 hours before the meeting, at [clerk.lacity.gov/calendar](https://clerk.lacity.gov/calendar).

To receive further notifications regarding the City Council meeting, access materials, or submit a public comment, please access the [Council File 13-0078-S2](#).

### Westchester - Playa Del Rey Community Plan Update

Thank you to those who attended the in-person community meeting for the Westchester - Playa del Rey Community Plan Update on September 19th with a focus on the Ladera Center and surrounding commercial areas! You can also view the meeting presentation slides, FAQ, and open house materials [on our website here](#).

If you have additional questions or feedback, please feel free to contact us at [planning.thewestside@lacity.org](mailto:planning.thewestside@lacity.org).

### El Sereno / 710 Corridor Rezoning Fall Update

On June 13, 2024, the City Planning Commission (CPC) recommended approval of the [El Sereno/ 710 Corridor Rezoning](#). The project will move forward to the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Members of the public who wish to offer public comment to the PLUM Committee at this meeting may do so in-person. If you are unable to attend this meeting, you may submit your comments online through the City [Clerk's Public Comment Form](#).

The City Council must make a final decision on the project by November 13, 2024. You can check the meeting agenda online, 72 hours before the meeting, at [clerk.lacity.gov/calendar](https://clerk.lacity.gov/calendar).

To receive further notifications regarding the PLUM meeting, access materials, or submit a public comment, please access the [Council File 24-1063](#).

### South LA Development Services Center

On Tuesday, July 23, 2024, Los Angeles City Planning opened its first [Development Services Center \(DSC\)](#) in South LA in partnership with the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) and the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD). Located on the first floor of the Mark Ridley-Thomas Constituent Service Center at 8475 Vermont Avenue, the South LA DSC is a convenient one-stop shop for local residents to access important planning services. The center offers in-person appointments on

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8.a.m. to 4 p.m., as well as virtual appointments on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

For more information, please visit [Planning4LA.org/SouthLA-DSC](https://Planning4LA.org/SouthLA-DSC).

## Helpful Resources

- [ZIMAS Presentation & WorkSheet](#)
- [Animated video series](#) about the new, updated zoning system and its modules
- [Executive Directive 1 Implementation](#)
- [Home-Sharing Records Portal](#)
- [City Planning Prefixes and Suffixes](#)

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- To receive our monthly department e-newsletter, sign up [here](#).
- Sign up [here](#) to receive bi-weekly case reports.
- [Community Plan Updates](#)
- [Latest News](#)
- Do you think City Planning should come to your community event? We're interested! Please send us future outreach opportunities via [planning.liaison@lacity.org](mailto:planning.liaison@lacity.org).