



LOS ANGELES CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

200 N. Spring Street, Room 272, Los Angeles, California, 90012, (213) 978-1300
www.lacity.org/PLN/index.htm

Determination Mailing Date: JUN 15 2015

CASE NO.: CPC-2015-578-CA
CEQA: ENV-2015-579-CE

Location: Citywide
Council Districts: All
Plan Areas: All
Request(s): Code Amendment

Applicant: City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning

At its meeting on May 28, 2015, the following action was taken by the City Planning Commission:

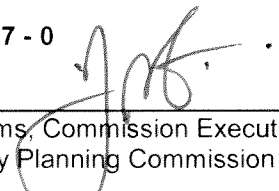
1. **Adopted** the City Planning **staff report** as the City Planning Commission's Report on the subject.
2. **Approved** a proposed **Ordinance** amending Sections 12.03, 12.07, 12.07.01, 12.07.1, and 12.08 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to establish new regulations for backyard beekeeping on single-family residentially zoned properties (RA, RE, RS, R1).
3. **Adopted** the attached **Findings**.
4. **Found** that the project is Categorically Exempt No. **ENV-2015-579-CE** from CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(2), and 15303 (Class 3), New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures and 15308 (Class 8), Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

1. **Recommend** the City Council **adopt** a proposed **Ordinance** amending Sections 12.03, 12.07, 12.07.01, 12.07.1, and 12.08 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to establish new regulations for backyard beekeeping on single-family residentially zoned properties (RA, RE, RS, R1).
2. **Recommend** the City Council **adopt** the **Findings**.
3. **Recommend** the City Council **Find** that the project is Categorically Exempt No. **ENV-2015-579-CE** from CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(2), and 15303 (Class 3), New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures and 15308 (Class 8), Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment.

Moved: Perlman
Seconded: Choe
Ayes: Ambroz, Katz, Mack, Segura
Abstained: Dake-Wilson
Absent: Ahn, Cabildo

Vote: 7 - 0



James K. Williams, Commission Executive Assistant II
Los Angeles City Planning Commission

Effective Date / Appeals:

The Commission's determination is final as of the mailing date of this determination and is not appealable.

If you seek judicial review of any decision of the City pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.5, the petition for writ of mandate pursuant to that section must be filed no later than the 90th day following the date on which the City's decision became final pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6. There may be other time limits which also affect your ability to seek judicial review.

Attachments: Ordinance, Findings
Planning Associate: Katherine Peterson

Findings

General Plan/Charter Findings

General Plan Consistency Findings

1. In accordance with **Charter Section 556**, the proposed Code amendment is in substantial conformance with the purposes, intent, and provisions of the General Plan in that it would permit beekeeping as an accessory use in single-family zoned neighborhoods, and establishes regulations on maximum hive number, distancing, barrier, water source, and hive positioning in order to minimize encounters between humans and bees while supporting a healthy bee population for the purpose of plant pollination.

General Plan Framework

Resource Conservation and Management

Objective 6.1 *Protect the City's natural settings from the encroachment of urban development, allowing for the development, use, management, and maintenance of each component of the City's natural resources to contribute to the sustainability of the region.*

The proposed Backyard Beekeeping ordinance would support a healthy bee population, which fosters increased pollination of the City's plants and trees, thereby supporting the environmental sustainability of the City and region.

Outdoor Recreation

Objective 6.2 *Maximize the use of the City's existing open space network and recreation facilities by enhancing those facilities and providing connections, particularly from targeted growth areas, to the existing regional and community open space system.*

Policy: *Establish, where feasible, the linear open space system represented in the Citywide Greenways Network map, to provide additional open space for active and passive recreational uses and to connect adjoining neighborhoods to one another and to regional open space resources (see Figure 6-1). This Citywide Greenways Network is hierarchical and is composed of three levels: regional, community, and local/ neighborhood. While these levels are of equal importance, they vary in scale and the degree to which they impact the City at large. Additionally, while these levels overlap one another, they can still be differentiated and broken down as follows:*

c. The local/neighborhood components include pedestrian-supporting streets, open space associated with public facilities such as schools, small parks, and community gardens.

The proposed Backyard Beekeeping ordinance would support a healthy bee population, which fosters increased pollination of the City's plants and trees, thereby supporting the City's Greenways Network and enhancing the aesthetic qualities of the open space areas.

Health and Wellness Element

The proposed code amendment is also consistent with, and helps further accomplish the following goals and objectives that make up the Health and Wellness Element of the General Plan:

Goal 4 *Food that Nourishes the Body, Soul, and Environment*

Objective 4.1 *Land for urban agriculture and healthy food*

Policy: *Encourage and preserve land for urban agriculture in the city to ensure a long-term supply of locally produced healthy food, promote resiliency, green spaces, and healthy food access; increase the number of urban agriculture sites including but not limited to: community gardens, parkway gardens, urban farms and rooftop gardens in low-income and underserved areas.*

Currently, beekeeping is only allowed in A1, A2, and MR1 zones; the proposed ordinance would expand beekeeping to single-family zoned neighborhoods. The proposed regulations would ensure the health of bees and provide for the enhancement of local gardens through pollination of local trees, vines, and other plants. The healthy growth of bee colonies, and resulting pollination, would increase the production of fruits, vegetables, and flowers in home and community gardens. Consequently, communities may see increased availability of local, affordable, fresh, and healthy food.

Community Plans

The Code Amendment will promote the objectives, policies and goals of various community plans in support of access to local and healthy food, community gardens, and abundant landscaping, by supporting a healthy bee population in the pollination of plants, trees, and vines.

2. In accordance with **Charter Section 558(b)(2)**, the adoption of the proposed ordinance will be in conformity with public necessity, convenience, general welfare and good zoning practice because the ordinance allowing beekeeping in more areas of the City supports environmental sustainability and our local food system, while imposing standards to help ensure the safety of residents in the smaller lot size context of single-family areas.

CEQA Findings

The Department of City Planning, determined that the proposed Code amendments would not have a significant impact on the environment. A Notice of Exemption (ENV-2015-579-CE, Exhibit A) was prepared for the proposed ordinance after a review for any potential impacts on the physical environment.

On the basis of the whole of the record before the lead agency, including any comments received, the lead agency finds that there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project will have a negative effect on the environment. The attached Notice of Exemption reflects the lead agency's independent judgment and analysis. The records upon which this decision is based are located at the Department of City Planning in Automated Records, 200 North Spring Street.

Delegation of City Planning Commission Authority

In accordance with **Charter Sections Charter 559**, and in order to insure the timely processing of this ordinance, the City Planning Commission authorizes the Director of Planning to approve or disapprove for the Commission any modification to the subject ordinance as deemed necessary by the Department of Building and Safety and/or the City Attorney's Office. In exercising that authority, the Director must make the same findings as would have been required for the City Planning Commission to act on the same matter. The Director's action under this authority shall be subject to the same time limits and shall have the same effect as if the City Planning Commission had acted directly.

DETERMINATION LETTER
CPC-2015-578-CA
MAILING DATE: 06/15/15

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