

MOTION

Section 91.7007.1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) defines the rainy season in the City as beginning on October 1 and ending on April 15. The Code states that this is the period during which heavy rainfall “normally occurs” in the City of Los Angeles. Section 61.02 of the LAMC outlines requirements for the installation of approved erosion control systems that are meant to mitigate the risks of hillside erosion and flooding resulting from grading work conducted during the rainy season.


These risks are not abstract. In hillside communities across the City, major storm events have led to mudslides, flooding, street closures, and damage to public and private property in every season over the last few years. As the impacts of climate change in the City intensify, the extreme weather events that precipitate these damages will only become more frequent. Enforcement of existing codes surrounding hillside preservation – already a crucially important public safety measure – will take on added urgency. Climate change will also affect the seasonality of extreme weather in the City; Tropical Storm Hillary’s impact in August of 2023 highlights that heavy rainfall is increasingly a year-round phenomenon.

Due to the language of LAMC sections 91.7007.1 and 61.02, however, enforcement of these requirements is challenging for the Department of Building and Safety. Under the current ordinance, enforcement of Orders to Comply relating to erosion control for permitted grading work generally stops when the rainy season ends on April 16th. This forces DBS to restart the enforcement process every year, making it difficult to resolve violations.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Department of Building and Safety, with the assistance of the City Attorney, to report within 60 days on potential amendments to Sections 91.7007.1 and 61.02 of the LAMC to improve the City’s ability to abate erosion and flood hazards stemming from permitted or unpermitted grading work at any time during the year. The report should also include an assessment of resources that would be required to effectuate Section 61.02(c).

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request the City Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance amending the LAMC to resolve code enforcement challenges associated with the definition of the rainy season, pursuant to the findings of the above-described report.

PRESENTED BY:


NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



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