

FINDINGS

General Plan/Charter Findings

Charter 556 (General Plan).

In accordance with City Charter Section 556, the proposed Processes and Procedures Maintenance Ordinance (Maintenance Ordinance) is in substantial conformance with the purposes, intent, and provisions of the General Plan in that it would further accomplish the goals, objectives, and policies of the General plan as outlined below:

Framework Element - Economic Development (Chapter 7)
<p>Objective 7.4 Improve the provision of governmental services, expedite the administrative processing of development applications, and minimize public and private development application costs.</p> <p>Objective 7.8 Maintain and improve municipal service levels throughout the City to support current residents' quality of life and enable Los Angeles to be competitive when attracting desirable new development.</p>

The proposed Maintenance Ordinance supports the intent of the Processes and Procedures Ordinance (Ordinance No. 187,712) to comprehensively reorganize the Zoning Code processes and procedures in a user-friendly and transparent way, and maintains the overall goal of providing clarity and consistency in the administrative process of development applications. The proposed Maintenance Ordinance also supports improvements to the provision of governmental services and processing of development applications by making it easier for both applicants and the public to clearly understand how the Department of City Planning considers land use and development proposals and how to navigate the decision-making process.

City Charter Section 558 and Section 13B.1.3.E. of the LAMC (Public Necessity, Convenience, General Welfare, Good Zoning Practice).

In accordance with City Charter Section 558 (b)(2) and Section 13B.1.3.E. of the LAMC, the proposed Maintenance Ordinance is in substantial conformance with public necessity, convenience, general welfare, and good zoning practice because it supports and maintains the intent of Ordinance No. 187,712 to provide the public with a user-friendly and easy to understand set of administrative Zoning Code processes and procedures, while also laying the groundwork for a more predictable and consistent new Zoning Code system.

Environmental/CEQA Findings

The Department of City Planning has determined, based on the whole of the administrative record, that the proposed Maintenance Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061(b)(3) and Section 15378(b)(5). The proposed Maintenance Ordinance solely modifies administrative procedures for the processing of entitlement requests and has no effect on the physical environment.

Pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3), the proposed Maintenance Ordinance is not a project under CEQA, because the “activity is covered by the common sense exception that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.”

The proposed Maintenance Ordinance is also not a project under CEQA pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) because “organization or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment” are not considered a project. The proposed Maintenance Ordinance does not change any discretionary actions into non-discretionary actions. Further, the proposed Maintenance Ordinance does not change the zoning of any properties. The proposed changes are limited to technical corrections and clarifications of administrative procedures and will not have an effect on the physical environment. As such, the proposed Maintenance Ordinance does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and is not considered a “project” under CEQA.