

FINDINGS

Charter Findings

In accordance with Charter Section 558, the adoption of the proposed amendment ordinance would be in conformity with public necessity, convenience, general welfare and good zoning practice as outlined below.

The proposed amendment ordinance does not alter the overall intent of the current Floodplain Hazard Management Specific Plan Ordinance. The goal of the proposed amendment ordinance is to ensure that the City's Floodplain Hazard Management Specific Plan Ordinance into compliance with the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) administered by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) under the Federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The Floodplain Hazard Management Ordinance establishes floodplain development requirements for both residential and non-residential structures located within FEMA designated Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) within the City. These regulations provide the basis for the integrated planning of drainage facilities with public and private land use and serves as a guide for the continued development and improvement of the Los Angeles drainage system in order to protect life and property from damage and destruction of flooding. Therefore, the Proposed Project furthers the protection of human life and property from flood-related losses, thus reducing the cost of disaster relief while at the same time preserving the availability of low cost flood insurance to the citizens of the City of Los Angeles.

General Plan Findings

General Plan Framework Element

The Framework Element for the General Plan (Framework Element) was adopted by the City of Los Angeles in December 1996 and re-adopted in August 2001. The Framework Element sets forth a Citywide comprehensive long-range growth strategy and broadly defines Citywide policies regarding such issues as land use, housing, urban form, neighborhood design, open space, economic development, transportation, infrastructure, and public services. The Framework Element includes guiding principles that support protection of human life and property from disasters including flood-related losses applicable to the entire city. The proposed amendment ordinance is consistent with the following Framework policies:

GOAL 9B: A stormwater management program that minimizes flood hazards and protects water quality by employing watershed-based approaches that balance environmental, economic and engineering considerations.

Objective 9.5: Ensure that all properties are protected from flood hazards in accordance with applicable standards and that existing drainage systems are adequately maintained.

Policy 9.5.3: Implement programs to correct any existing deficiencies in the stormwater collection system.

Safety Element

The Safety Element of the General Plan defines goals, objectives and policies relating to hazard mitigation, responses to natural disasters and initial recovery from natural disasters. The proposed amendment ordinance will be in substantial conformance with the following goals, objectives and policies:

GOAL 1: A City where potential injury, loss of life, property damage and disruption of the social and economic life of the City due to fire, water related hazard, seismic event, geologic conditions or release of hazardous disasters is minimized.

Objective 1.1: Implement comprehensive hazard mitigation plans and programs that are integrated with each other and with the City's comprehensive emergency response and recovery plans and programs.

Policy 1.1.1: Coordination. Coordinate information gathering, program formulation and program implementation between City agencies, other jurisdictions and appropriate public and private entities to achieve the maximum mutual benefit with the greatest efficiency of funds and staff.

Policy 1.1.5: Risk reduction. Reduce potential risk hazards due to natural disaster to the greatest extent feasible within the resources available, including provision of information and training, [All programs that incorporate current data, knowledge and technology in revising and implementing plans (including this Safety Element), codes, standards and procedures that are designed to reduce potential hazards and risk from hazards potentially associated with natural disasters implement this policy.]

Policy 1.1.6: State and federal regulations. Assure compliance with applicable state and federal planning and development regulations, e.g., Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, State Mapping Act and Cobey-Alquist Flood Plain Management Act.

The proposed amendment ordinance meets the purpose, intent, and provisions of the General Plan's Framework and Safety Elements by ensuring the City's Floodplain Hazard Management regulations are compliant with FEMA's current regulations and standards to mitigate flood hazards and to protect life and property. The proposed amendment ordinance addresses flood risk hazard and is designed to reduce risk from flood hazards by providing standards that are consistent with FEMA guidelines and are implemented through development review of new projects. The proposed amendment ordinance outlines and clarifies coordination between the City departments and other jurisdictions to improve implementation and required reporting procedures.

CEQA Findings

Determine based on the whole of the administrative record, including the draft NOE justification in the Project file, that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(1) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 (Class 8) and there is no substantial evidence demonstrating that an exception to a categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2 applies; and that pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), that the Project is not a "project" as defined by CEQA.