

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Casey Maddren

**Date Submitted:** 05/17/2022 04:21 PM

**Council File No:** 21-1230

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please see the attached letter from seven Los Angeles area organizations asking for a postponement of the May 19 meeting of the CPC to consider amendments to the Housing Element.  
Sincerely, Casey Maddren, President, United Neighborhoods for Los Angeles

May 17, 2022

City Planning Commission  
Department of City Planning  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 N. Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Amendment to Housing Element  
Case Nos.: CPC-2022-2698-GPA; ENV-2020-6762-EIR-ADD1  
CF 21-1230  
REQUEST TO POSTPONE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING

Members of the City Planning Commission:

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, are writing to ask that the City Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 19 be postponed to give the public more time to review and comment on the amendments to the Housing Element and associated documents. We ask this because we believe the current time frame does not give the public adequate time to read and evaluate all the materials that will be considered at the meeting. We also believe that City Planning has not made a sufficient effort to make these materials available to the public in a timely manner.

On April 21, 2022, LA City Planning sent an e-mail to members of the public with the subject line "Targeted Amendments to City of Los Angeles 6th Cycle Housing Element Update (2021–2029)." This e-mail contained a link to a document titled "Housing Element 2021–2029 DRAFT Targeted Amendments". This document is a helpful summary of the proposed changes, but by itself, it's not enough.

The notice of the CPC meeting was sent out on May 11. In reviewing the agenda, we see that item number two under Recommended Actions is to "Approve the Staff Recommendation Report as the Commission Report." As you know, the Recommendation Report is 2,955 pages long. We were not able to review the Recommendation Report until the agenda was sent out on May 11, only eight days before the meeting.

We hope you'll agree that the time frame given is far too short to allow interested parties to read, absorb, and comment on the document. Furthermore, neighborhood councils will certainly want to weigh in on the amendments to the Housing Element, but since NCs generally only have full board meetings once a month, the City's time frame makes it impossible for them to offer any meaningful input.

We'd like to share with you some comments made by Director of Planning Vince Bertoni to the PLUM Committee at their March 1, 2022 meeting. In talking about the limited time frame that the California Department of Housing & Community Development had given the City of LA to revise its Housing Element, Bertoni stated, "Amending a housing element takes a long time in Los Angeles, as set forward in our City Charter. It requires a public review process." Bertoni also stated that the deadline for amending the Housing Element was October of this year. While we agree that this is a relatively short time to make significant changes to a complex document, this still leaves us five months. The City can certainly afford to postpone the CPC hearing long enough to allow for meaningful public engagement, which, as the Director pointed out to PLUM, is required by the City Charter.

We ask that the CPC meeting be postponed by 45 days to give members of the public and neighborhood councils adequate time to review and comment on the amendments. This would push the CPC meeting to the beginning of July, leaving the rest of that month, as well as all of August and September for consideration by other council committees and the full City Council.

Public engagement is crucial to the planning process, and as Director Bertoni pointed out, this concept is embedded in the Charter. We urge the CPC to postpone consideration of this matter until the public has had a reasonable opportunity to comment on the amendments to the Housing Element.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

**Organizations**

*Citizens Preserving Venice  
Coalition for Valley Neighborhoods  
Franklin Corridor Communities  
Hillside Federation  
Los Feliz Improvement Association  
Responsible Urban Development Initiative  
United Neighborhoods for Los Angeles*

**Individuals**

*Annie Gagen  
John Girodo  
Amy Gustincic  
Schelley Kiah  
Jeff McDonough  
Keith Nakata  
Susan Winsberg*

CC:  
Director of Planning Vince Bertoni  
City Planner Blair Smith  
Members of the Los Angeles City Council  
Mayor Eric Garcetti