

Communication from Public

Name: Jacob Pierce

Date Submitted: 12/08/2025 02:36 PM

Council File No: 09-0969-S4

Comments for Public Posting: Hello LA City Council and City Planning Staff, I am submitting the attached letter, re: the Comprehensive Fee Update, in favor of raising the appeal cost for appellants, such that the petitioner pays the true and full cost of the appeal. By pursuing this simple reform, the City can both discourage meritless challenges and generate revenue to support the Planning Department's essential work in the midst of a budget crisis. We urge the City Council to adopt the CAO's common sense recommendation on this matter.



12/8/2025

Los Angeles City Planning Department
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Comments about Comprehensive Fee Update (CF: 09-0969-S4) and support for requiring non-applicant appellants to pay full cost of appeals

Dear President Harris-Dawson and members of the Los Angeles City Council,

Los Angeles is facing a dire housing shortage that's hurting renters, stifling growth, and pricing out residents who call the city home. A central cause of this crisis is that, for decades, we have made it too difficult, too tedious, and too costly to build housing.

That is why, on behalf of Abundant Housing LA, I write to weigh in on the Comprehensive Fee Update. In particular, I would like to express strong support for the CAO's recommendation to require non-applicant appellants to pay the full cost of their appeals. The current appeals structure places disproportionate financial and administrative burdens on both housing developers and the City of Los Angeles. Appeals filed by individuals or groups who are not the project applicant significantly increase costs, extend project timelines, and consume valuable staff resources.

It is critical that the City remove unnecessary barriers to production. Frivolous and obstructionist appeals slow down development and make housing more expensive to produce. By pursuing this simple reform, the City can both discourage meritless challenges and generate revenue to support the Planning Department's essential work in the midst of a budget crisis. We urge the City Council to adopt the CAO's common sense recommendation that non-applicant appellants pay for the cost of their appeals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Azeen Khanmalek", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Azeen Khanmalek
Executive Director
Abundant Housing LA