



Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney
Hydee Feldstein Soto

REPORT NO. R 2 4 - 0 5 5 8

NOV 0 7 2024

REPORT RE:

DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 12.03, 12.04, 12.32, 13.00, 13.21, 13.22, AND 16.05 OF THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE TO CREATE A WILDLIFE SUPPLEMENTAL USE DISTRICT

The Honorable City Council
of the City of Los Angeles
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Council File No. 14-0518

Honorable Members:

Pursuant to your request, this Office has prepared and now transmits for your consideration, approved as to form and legality, the enclosed draft ordinance that would amend Sections 12.03, 12.04, 12.32, 13.00, 13.21, 13.22, and 16.05 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to create a Wildlife Supplemental Use District (District).

The purpose of the draft ordinance is to reduce cumulative development impacts on plants, animals and natural resources while, at the same time, improving climate resilience and public health. The draft ordinance proposes development standards for lot coverage, floor area, grading and height limitations, as well as native landscaping/trees, fence, solid waste enclosure, window and lighting requirements. The draft ordinance includes regulations that apply to private properties within the district, including additional discretionary review where lots contain or are adjacent to natural resources, such as waterways and open space. The draft ordinance contains regulations and procedures for project review and the Department of City Planning will maintain a map identifying lots subject to natural wildlife resource provisions.

This draft ordinance will be accompanied by a zone change ordinance prepared by the Department of City Planning that establishes the boundaries of the District and identifies the properties within the District that are subject to the draft ordinance.

If the City Council decides to approve this draft ordinance, it should be approved at the same Council meeting as the Downtown Community Plan Update ordinances and New Zoning Code (CF 22-0617) in order to satisfy the no net loss requirement set forth in Government Code Section 66300(h) (Housing Crisis Act of 2019).

Charter Findings

Charter Section 556 and 558(b)(3) require the City Council to make findings showing whether adoption of the draft ordinances will be: (a) in substantial conformance with the purposes, intent and provisions of the General Plan; and (b) in conformity with public necessity, convenience, general welfare and good zoning practice. The City Council may either adopt the City Planning Commission's findings and recommendations as set forth in the City Planning Commission's Transmittal Report, or make its own.

CEQA Findings

This Office recommends that if the City Council adopts the enclosed draft ordinance, it determines, based on the whole of the administrative record, that the draft ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3), 15307 (Class 7) and 15308 (Class 8), and no exception to a categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 applies (Exhibit E). In doing so, the City Council may adopt the CEQA findings of the City Planning Commission or make its own findings when making the recommended CEQA determinations.

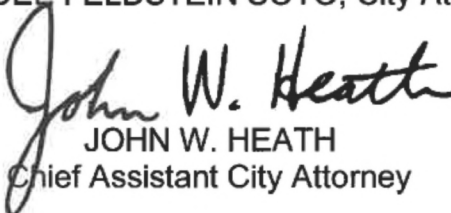
Council Rule 38 Referral

Copies of the revised draft ordinance were sent, pursuant to Council Rule 38, to the Department of City Planning, the Department of Building and Safety, and the Department of Animal Services with a request that all comments, if any, be presented directly to the City Council at the time this matter is considered.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Deputy City Attorney Kenneth Fong at (213) 978-8202. A member of this Office will be available when you consider this matter to answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

HYDEE FELDSTEIN SOTO, City Attorney

By 
JOHN W. HEATH
Chief Assistant City Attorney

JH:KTF:pb
Transmittal