

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: Novemebr 6, 2025

TO: Honorable Members of the City Council

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No.	25-0345
Assignment No.	25-08-0676

SUBJECT: Film Permitting Process / Competitive Fee Structures / Public Safety Personnel Requirements / Public Property Use Fee / Price Gouging Enforcement

SUMMARY

On March 28, 2025, Motion (C.F. 25-0345, Nazarian – Raman, Soto-Martinez) was introduced, instructing the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), with assistance from the Fire Department (LAFD), Police Department (LAPD), Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), Bureau of Public Works (BPW), Economic Workforce and Development Department (EWDD), Department of Transportation (DOT), FilmLA, and any other relevant departments to report regarding recommendations on establishing more competitive fee structures within the City's filming permitting process; alternative safety personnel requirement proposals; the potential for waived or reduced fees for utilizing public property; the creation of a pool of film-certified public safety officers; information regarding price gouging relative to film shoots; streamlining the film permitting review process; and amending the stage certification process.

On April 29, 2025, Motion (C.F. 25-0345, Padilla – Nazarian) was introduced, amending Motion (Nazarian – Raman, Soto-Martinez) to include an additional recommendation requesting that the departments identified in the original Motion report back with a list of restricted/unavailable City owned locations for filming.

Subsequent to Council approval of these motions on April 29, 2025, the CLA has held discussions with stakeholders to better understand the issues complicating the film permitting process. Preliminary conversations with FilmLA, City departments, local union representatives, and local filmmaking professionals have provided valuable feedback on ways in which the process can be improved, as summarized in this report.

Further, on May 28, 2025, FilmLA released a report (FilmLA Report) responsive to Motion (Nazarian – Raman, Soto-Martinez). An analysis of the FilmLA Report is provided as well.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That City Council:

1. Instruct the CAO and CLA to negotiate amendments to the FilmLA contract in an effort to expedite filming in the City, including suggested fee alterations before they are instituted and other issues;
2. Request the Board of Public Works to establish a position with the authority to assist in gaining approvals when needed;
3. Request all City Departments identify a single Film Liaison to assist with film-related issues with said department;
4. Request LAFD to report on ways in which the temporary set / non-certified sound stage certification process could be expedited; and
5. Instruct the CAO and CLA to provide quarterly oversight reports, either verbal or written, concerning the implementation of actions to improve filming processes in the City.

BACKGROUND

Relative to Council's instructions in Motion (Nazarian – Raman, Soto-Martinez) and Motion (Padilla – Nazarian), respectively, our Office has compiled information regarding the film permitting process, permit fee structure, City-owned filming locations, public safety requirements, the sound stage certification process, and price gouging of film crews. Many procedures that had been previously implemented by Council action, such as regular meetings of the Film Task Force, regular fee reviews, and staffing priorities at City departments, were disrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic and should be renewed to ensure or enhance program efficiency.

City Film Permitting Process

FilmLA is a 501(c)4 not-for-profit public benefit organization and the official film office of the City and County of Los Angeles. They also serve the following additional local municipalities and school districts: the cities of Diamond Bar, Fullerton, Gardena, Glendale, Industry, La Habra Heights, Lancaster, Monterey Park, Newport Beach, Palmdale, San Fernando, South Gate, Vernon, and Culver City; the County of Los Angeles; and the unified school districts of Burbank, Glendale, Los Angeles, La Cañada, and Lawndale.

On behalf of the City, FilmLA coordinates the film permit process among approximately 20 City departments and agencies, and ensures that filming in the City is done in accordance with City ordinances and in a manner that minimizes impacts on neighborhoods and merchant districts. Among FilmLA's centralized tools is the FilmLA Reservation System, which allows filmmakers to apply for permits at public and City-owned locations in Los Angeles. This system allows applicants to check the live status of their permit application online at any time.

LAPD receives filming permit applications from FilmLA and reviews them for accuracy, completeness, and appropriateness. LAPD then approves a filming permit as submitted, or requests clarification or amendment from the requestor. LAPD reports that average turn-around time for a properly applied permit is 24 hours.

Filming on RAP-managed property requires additional permit review by the Park Film Office. Productions are required to use RAP's online reservation system to secure filming times and locations throughout the City. RAP has noted deficiencies with the present system, and is actively developing a new reservation system.

Once LAPD, and in certain cases RAP, approve a permit, FilmLA reviews documentation, coordinates notifications and community surveys as required, and finalizes and issues the permit on behalf of the City within three days. LAPD, RAP, DPW, BPW, GSD, and DOT cooperate with filming permits by adjusting their processes so as to not interfere with filming activities.

City Film Permit Fee Structure

Film and television production in the City requires the payment of fees associated with a filming permit. All fees are paid directly to FilmLA and distributed to the appropriate departments.

The City does not charge a permit fee.

FilmLA requires a base fee of \$931 for any permit application review, which can be used for up to seven consecutive days of filming at a maximum of five locations. Additional fees are charged for supplemental services. FilmLA Monitors require an hourly fee of \$44.50, with additional charges for overtime. As an independent organization, FilmLA sets their own fee structure to cover their costs, not the City.

Police Permitting

LAPD does not require a fee for permit review, nor do they recover costs for permitting services. However, LAPD permits Motion Picture Officers (MPO), who are required to be retired or active off-duty police officers. MPOs are then contracted to productions through private "wranglers" at an average cost of between \$67 and \$74 per hour. The number of MPOs assigned to a location is determined by the filming needs on-set; for example, use of a 'Russian Arm' camera device, as mounted to a moving car, requires a minimum of four MPOs. FilmLA notes that these costs could be reduced if productions were allowed to use a wider variety of licensed traffic agents that could be hired at a lower hourly rate.

Fire Permitting

LAFD requires a "spot check" fee for all productions to allow the department to recover the cost of a fire safety officer's time to review the location at the time of filming. Certain productions opt to, or are required to, include the presence of a licensed Uniformed Fire Safety Officer (FSO), which is reimbursed at \$127 per hour, plus travel time. A spot check fee is required regardless of the presence of such an Officer. As a "spot check" program, LAFD does not visit every production site that has paid this fee. The spot check fee is presently \$287.

Department of Transportation Permitting

Filming on or near City streets typically requires the posting of signage to restrict non-production vehicles from parking in spaces inconvenient for filming. DOT requires fees to post such signage, at a cost of \$69 for every 300 feet of sidewalk. This fee covers the cost of sign printing and a DOT employee's time to perform this work.

Recreation and Parks Permitting

RAP requires fees for the use of their park locations as well as a fee to recover the cost of Park Film Monitors that provide safety oversight of the production and ensure that the park remains safe and undamaged. The standard RAP filming fee is presently \$450 per day, which can be waived for non-profits and students. Additionally, RAP requires a Spot Check fee of \$150, a Special Facility Service Fee at specific sites of \$150, and other supplemental fees. Park Film Monitors are compensated at \$38 per hour, with a \$76 reporting fee that is applied each time a new Monitor is required to begin or rotate monitoring shifts; shifts are reported to last for four hours.

Access to, and Fees for, City-Owned Locations

Council requested information regarding waived or reduced fees for using public property as shoot locations. Most City-owned locations exempt payment for filming on City property; for example, City Hall is available free-of-charge as a filming location. Proper permitting and coordination is still required, though. The exception to this policy is with RAP-operated properties which do charge a use fee.

Council additionally requested a list of restricted/unavailable City owned locations for filming, including why they are restricted, and recommendations for alternate locations that can accomplish similar settings within the City's property portfolio.

GSD controls the majority of City-owned locations, including parking lots. The department states that there are no City-owned locations that are explicitly restricted from or unavailable for filming activities, and any facility under their control may be inquired about for filming. Once a request has been submitted, GSD staff evaluate the site for viability of use for all or parts of the location, and may approve or reject said request depending upon that determination. As an example, the Lincoln Heights Jail has been approved for exterior filming, but recent evaluations have deemed the interior non-viable for filming. No fee is applied for use of these properties unless the parking lot has expected revenue at the site that would be a loss to the General Fund.

Public Safety Officers

As noted above, certain productions require the use of MPOs to coordinate traffic and public safety concerns and FSOs to monitor fire-related activities. MPOs are hired by private "wranglers" that can assign and charge for officers. According to FilmLA, this can cause overcharging of productions due to higher-than-market rates.

LAPD controls a permitting process for off-duty employment of retired and active LAPD officers. This process requires that officers are still in good standing with the Department,

possess required and up-to-date training certificates, and do not have complaints regarding their secondary work status. Permits are renewed every two years and can be revoked by the Department. LAPD reports that no serious complaints have been charged against any MPO in the previous three years.

Film productions are encouraged to report to LAPD any activity by an MPO that creates adverse conditions on set. Proper reporting would ensure that bad actors are identified and investigated, and, if appropriate, have their permits revoked.

Temporary Sets / Non-Certified Sound Stage Certification Process

Sound stages provide space for productions to film while insulated from natural light or outside sound. As regulated by the State Fire Code, sound stages are required to meet the full certification standards of, and inspections by, LAFD. Additionally, while filming on sound stages does not require a permit in most cases, the filming of fire-related activities does require special permits from LAFD.

The use of temporary sets and long-standing non-certified stages is a common practice in the production industry, but the State Fire Code does not provide criteria for such stages as it does for permanent sound stages. LAFD inspectors are therefore required to apply certified stage requirements, or ask Building and Safety to impose a "change of use" to the stage. This process can cause unnecessary production delays that result in the relocation of production activities outside of the City and State.

Amending the State Fire Code to create a distinct standard for temporary sets and long-standing non-certified stages would allow productions to use these spaces without concern for delays from fire inspections. Alterations to the State Fire Code would require the involvement of the State Fire Marshal.

Until State law addresses this concern, Council could request LAFD to report on ways in which the certification process could be expedited.

Price Gouging

FilmLA notes that productions have reported experiencing price-gouging practices when attempting to shoot in the City. Residents are prohibited from requesting direct compensation from a production team for the inconvenience of a film shoot as provided in Municipal Code Section 41.20; however, many productions have reported having to make exorbitant payments to residents to park their vehicles on City streets, access permitted locations, or otherwise shoot in order to avoid intentional complications or harassment.

The City allows productions to access and use City-owned off-street parking lots free of charge, with the proper permits. Interference with a Special Event permit, such as extortion, is prohibited by Municipal Code Section 41.20. However, despite City policy and law, respectively, some productions have reported demands of up to \$4,000 from private parties for access to these lots.

FilmLA has previously provided public education through their "Film Works" and "LA Loves Film" campaigns. FilmLA reports that these efforts reduced compensation requests from residents by informing them of the benefits of film production to the City, and of the illegality of compensation requests. However, FilmLA has lacked the funding to operate these public information campaigns in recent years.

Mayor's Executive Directive No. 8

Subsequent to Council approval of the Motion, on August 7, 2024, Mayor Karen Bass issued Executive Directive No. 8, which, among other actions, established the Film and Television Task Force comprising Film Liaisons from applicable City Departments and external industry stakeholders to meet quarterly to address production-related challenges and solutions directly with Departments. This is similar to the City Film Task Force that had been established by Council in 2009 (C.F. 08-1783) to create a forum for City agencies and the entertainment industry to discuss key issues concerning filming in the City and address industry needs and concerns. The Task Force was open for broad industry participation and met regularly until the COVID-19 emergency placed such gatherings on hiatus.

The Mayor's Task Force is directed to review and compile existing procedures, processes, and timelines associated with filming and accessing permits for production, as well as recommendations for streamlining and data on the utilization of City facilities. Within 60 days, all Departments were required to provide a report to the Mayor's Office of Business and Economic Development and the Board of Public Works. Within 12 months, the Mayor's Office of Business and Economic Development and the Board of Public Works were required to provide recommendations to the Mayor on procedural updates to streamline film permitting.

Additionally, the Mayor's Task Force is requested to provide any proposed changes in policies and regulations that affect filming, film permitting, or studio development to the Mayor's Office of Business and Economic Development and the Board of Public Works for feedback at least 45 working days before any change is expected to be approved or adopted.

The Mayor's Office reports that stakeholders have had productive discussions regarding improvements that could be made to the overall permitting process. They state that LAPD has agreed to reduce the number of required MPOs while not undermining public safety, which will save production costs; and DOT has agreed to extend their hours of staff coverage for on-street signage, which will allow for more adaptive film schedules.

The Mayor's Task Force will continue to meet regularly.

Mayor's Executive Directive No. 11

Subsequent to Council approval of the Motion, on May 20, 2025, Mayor Karen Bass issued Executive Directive No. 11, which requires relevant City departments, including RAP, DOT, LAPD, LAFD, and GSD, to implement and report back within 30 calendar days concerning numerous operational and procedural changes, with a focus on streamlining or minimizing procedures to avoid requiring additional staff.

The instructions in Executive Directive No. 11 include:

1. Requiring City departments to make iconic City locations more accessible and affordable for filming, such as the Griffith Observatory and the Central Library, by creating guidelines for onsite filming, cutting review timelines, and calling for the lowering of certain City fees;
2. Lowering costs and coordination time by reducing the number of City departmental staff who are assigned to monitor filming on set to one total City staff member, as City law allows. Current practices often require numerous staff to be onsite for a film shoot; and
3. Instituting an active, film-friendly approach to communication between City departments and production, including the communication of upcoming infrastructure projects that could impact filming schedules.

Reports relative to Mayor's Directive No. 11 have yet to be made public by the Mayor's Office.

Film & Television Tax Credit Program

In 2009, the State created the first Film & Television Tax Credit Program as a response to increased incentives and pressure from foreign countries and U.S. states competing for film and television production, with \$100 million dollars available for incentives annually. The Film & Television Tax Credit Program has been expanded and modified since 2009, and it has generated over \$26 billion in economic activity and directly supported over 197,000 jobs across the State. The most recent Film & Television Tax Credit Program, which ran through June 2025, was capped at \$330 million dollars annually, and was regularly oversubscribed.

On October 27, 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a proposal to expand the Film & Television Tax Credit Program to offer \$750 million in incentives annually, more than doubling the present incentive cap, and positioning California as the state with the highest incentive cap in the nation. This proposal was approved within the 2025-26 California State Budget.

Sister bills AB 1138 (Zbur – Bryan) and SB 630 (Allen) sought to amend, update, and modernize California's Film and Television Tax Credit Program, including expanding the definition of a qualified motion picture, and allowing additional projects to apply for the tax-credit program, including series with episodes averaging 20 minutes or more, animation films, series, shorts and large-scale competition shows. Previous drafts of the legislation included funding for the proposed incentive cap increase, but these references were removed in the Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees. These bills were passed on July 3, 2025, and chaptered into the Revenue and Taxation Code.

FilmLA Report

On May 28, 2025, FilmLA released a report (FilmLA Report) responsive to Motion (Nazarian – Raman, Soto-Martinez). FilmLA reports that their application fee is below the median for the region, and, since 1999, has only risen in response to the Consumer Price Index. Their fee

applies to numerous jurisdictions and allows applicants to cross borders and request multiple days and locations for a single fee. FilmLA also states that their turnaround time of three days is the fastest in the region, compared to other adjacent film processing entities that take seven to ten days.

FilmLA notes that competition from national and international locations outside of the region has increased rapidly due to tax credits and rebates that are far more beneficial outside of California. While the \$750 million earmarked in the state budget for the Film & Television Tax Credit Program will provide a boost to these efforts, FilmLA notes that much more would have to be done in order to return to pre-pandemic levels of filming in the City.

The FilmLA Report provides the following recommendations to reduce on-location costs for the industry:

1. Evaluate, revise, and/or remove "notes" and "special conditions" from locations, as these have become redundant or irrelevant after 30 years of use;
2. Review City fees for waiver or reduction;
3. City departmental review of "filmable" locations, including parking lots, under their purview;
4. Review and limit fees charged, and review filming limitations, for City properties under RAP, Library, and DWP control, such as the Griffith Park Observatory;
5. Remove the requirement for approval from Council Districts for the use of City-owned parking lots;
6. Ensure all film permit-approving agencies have staff available from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on every working day; and
7. Reinstate DOT "pre-approved" closure plans for Downtown LA to avoid planning redundancy.

The FilmLA Report also provides requests from industry stakeholders to improve the film permitting process:

1. Ensure RAP has full-time staffing for the RAP Film Office;
2. Fix RAP wait list "overbooking," where productions reserve multiple locations for the same time as they decide on an ideal single location;
3. Create a position with authority within the Mayor's Office to assist in gaining approvals when needed;

4. Review the "spot check" fees charged by LAFD;
5. Request LAFD to request the State Fire Marshal to develop regulations for "temporary stages" to reduce the loss of productions;
6. Reduce the number of MPOs required on location, where possible; and
7. Allow "white glove" traffic agents instead of MPOs for most cases.

Finally, the FilmLA Report states that a City outreach campaign designed to encourage support for the industry and reduce on-location costs has the potential to alleviate price gouging concerns.

It should be noted that DOT personnel include "white glove" traffic agents that provide traffic safety services for events as required, with reimbursement from event coordinators. DOT staff have indicated that providing additional traffic safety services for film productions would strain the department's capacity and provide minimal financial savings for film studios.

Next Steps

Conversations with relevant departments have revealed inconsistencies that restrict efficiency across the program. Council should consider the following improvements that could increase the adaptability of the City's approach to film permitting in order to match the industry's evolving practices:

- Instruct the CAO and CLA to negotiate amendments to the FilmLA contract in an effort to expedite filming in the City, including suggested fee alterations before they are instituted and other issues;
- Request the Board of Public Works to establish a position with the authority to assist in gaining approvals when needed;
- Request all City Departments identify a singular Film Liaison to assist with film-related issues with said department;
- Request a review of MPO requirements with an aim of decreasing the number of MPOs required at each location and allowing "white glove" traffic officers in lieu of MPOs in certain circumstances;
- Request LAFD to report on ways in which the sound stage certification process could be expedited, and request the State Fire Marshal to develop regulations for "temporary stages" to reduce the loss of productions;
- Request RAP assess wait list "overbooking" issues;

- Request that LAPD and FilmLA evaluate, revise, and/or remove "notes" and "special conditions" from locations, as these have become redundant or irrelevant after 30 years of use; and
- Other suggestions as proposed by relevant departments, as stated above.

Further, Council could instruct the CAO and CLA to report on a quarterly basis, either verbally or in writing, on the progress in implementing improvements in the City's film support efforts.



Alex Whitehead
Legislative Analyst

Attachment: FilmLA Report dated May 28, 2025

**FilmLA Report RE/ Council File 25-0345
Nazarian Motion re/ Filming**

May 27, 2025

Matthew W. Szabo
Chief Legislative Analyst
John Wickham/Alex Whitehead

RE/ COUNCIL FILE 25-0345 (Nazarian)

FilmLA has been the city (and region's) film office for 30 years and brings experience with, and advocacy for, the film industry and its work in Los Angeles.

Our Board includes 1/3 union representatives, 1/3 producers (studios, independents) and 1/3 community (business organizations, neighborhood representatives), making the organization firmly in tune with the "tripod" of constituencies we work with: the City, the Industry and the Communities where filming takes place.

The balancing act of supporting filming and gaining community support for on-location work has been at the forefront of our work on behalf of the City.

FilmLA's application fee is below the median for the region and represents approximately 40% of the permit fees charged to the industry (the balance being City fees). FilmLA is uniquely able to cross jurisdictions and offer multiple days and locations under a single application fee, creating savings for the industry customer. Our fees have been stable, increasing only by the CPI for the region since 1999.

UNIQUE BENEFITS TO FILMING IN LOS ANGELES

FilmLA's **application system** is incredibly sophisticated. "MyFilmLA" was created, maintained and is continuously improved with input from the film industry, the municipalities we serve and our staff. It is unique in the world. Incorporation of GIS information layers from the City and notes added to locations make possible the avoidance of conflicts and allow FilmLA to advise filmmakers of very local filming conditions and history. Communication to City approvers is done through this system, with each agency having a "dashboard" of pending applications and the ability to make changes, recommendations and approvals.

The **sixteen cities and the County of Los Angeles** that currently make up the FilmLA family of jurisdictions all **follow the processes described in the Model Film**

Ordinance. We require compliance in order to join FilmLA, so the industry has **certainty about what to expect and consistency across borders.**

Because of these partnerships, customers using FilmLA can **maximize their application by crossing borders and requesting multiple days and locations for a single fee.** Without FilmLA, each municipality would charge an application fee. In addition, many cities that are not working with FilmLA charge by the day, by the location or both. Our Solution Services team counsels film industry customers on how to maximize the value (and therefore lower the cost) of each application.

LA's turnaround time is the fastest in the region. Three business days is all it takes for a standard film permit application to be approved. Longer times may be necessary for extraordinary activities like simulated gunfire, explosions, road closures, etc. The median turnaround time for permits outside of FilmLA's service area is 7-10 business days, two dozen neighboring cities require a minimum of two weeks.

City Locations and Low Use Fees. For many years, most City properties have been made available for the film industry to use free of charge. Personnel may be required to be on site. FilmLA provides the industry with an inventory of these properties with photos taken by location scouts and useful information. "LocoScout" demonstrates the many unique and unexpected types of City properties available to avoid private property costs. FilmLA's Solution Services staff help productions in finding great locations at low cost using LocoScout.

LAPD's commitment to having an active and engaged film unit as the permit authority makes the processing time short because of their experience and understanding of the needs of the industry and the communities where filming takes place.

MAKING FILMING EASIER AND LESS COSTLY IN LOS ANGELES

We are keenly aware of the costs of filming in greater Los Angeles due to the general high cost of doing business and unique issues facing the film industry here. The true generators of economic impact and job creation are larger budget feature film, television, commercials, high budget unscripted television and game shows. Members of our Board of Directors representing these groups as well as feedback from producers make it clear that the reason for filming in locations other than Los Angeles is not due to the application fees or process. **The national and international competition through tax credits and rebates is far more beneficial outside California and has drawn these businesses away for more than two decades.** The governor's budget, if passed, will have some impact on returning this type of production, but much more would have to be done at that level in order to return to pre-pandemic levels of filming in LA.

The emerging filmmaker and those without large budgets have the most difficult time with the costs associated with filming in the region. Sixty percent of the permit costs are City fees (attached schedule). There are other costs not within the permit system that may be addressed, such as cost to use locations, “inconvenience fees” paid to neighbors of filming and requests from business organizations and homeowners associations for contributions in order to film in their areas.

For the small budget independent filmmaker as well as for the larger productions, it is important to find ways to reduce fees wherever possible and remove some of the impediments to rapid review and approval. There are also opportunities to reduce on-location costs for the industry by removing some special requirements created over the years.

- Evaluate and revise or remove “notes” and Special Conditions to reduce review time and complexity for the film industry. These may be older than thirty years and have reduced or have no relevance to current conditions. The review may be undertaken by FilmLA and the City’s Permit Authority (LAPD). Consultation with Council Districts may be necessary if they were originally involved in the creation of the condition.
 - Focus on any that enable or encourage falsely claimed “requirements” that payments be made by the production.
 - Repeal and replace two special condition areas created by ordinance: Arts District and Echo Park. Because they are in an ordinance, LAPD and the industry lose flexibility in how to approve activity in these two areas.
- Review City fees for waiver or reduction. 60% of permit costs are City fees (schedule attached).
- All departments review and provide “filmable” locations including parking lots. FilmLA may add them to “LocoScout” – the database of City owned locations.
- Review and limit fees charged for City properties such as the Observatory/DWP property.
- Review limitations on filming at certain City properties such as the Observatory, Library, and DWP properties.
- Parking lot approvals: remove the requirement for approval from Council Districts for use of City lots (off-street parking lots). This would return to prior practice where consultation occurred only for longer duration requests.
- Ensure all film permit approving agencies have staff available 8a – 5p to avoid additional days in process. The Harbor Dept currently requires a one-week application period due to lack of staff. One approving department closes at 1pm.
- Reinstate DOT “pre-approved” closure plans for Downtown LA (in compliance with the “Watch Manual”). Equipped with conditional “pre-approvals” for closure

requests, FilmLA can coordinate permits faster and give mutual customers a better experience.

INDUSTRY REQUESTS

- Have Rec and Park Film Office staff be full-time. The industry complains about inconsistencies during the application process as more than one person is handling the review, changes of staff on location mid-filming and then new conditions.
- The use of “wait lists” for park property reservations creates problems by incentivizing location overbooking “just in case.” This is a barrier to access that ultimately reduces utilization of valuable park resources.
- The industry has requested the City to create a position with authority in the mayor’s office to assist in gaining approvals when needed.
- Review the “Spot Check” fees charged by LAFD. These are among the highest fees charged by the City and apply to nearly every permit, even when a fire safety officer is assigned (still photo, student and “posting only” permit applications do not pay this fee). This is the only fee routinely charged to a film permit.
- LAFD should request the State Fire Marshal to develop regulations for “temporary stages.” The use of the fire code to require adherence to the code for permanent stages has caused a loss of production to other countries and states.
- Reduce the number of Motion Picture Officers required on location where possible (the LAPD is willing to consider reduction and FilmLA staff are able to help with recommendations).
- Allow “white glove” traffic agent (LADOT or “state certified”) instead of MPO (requires new process/expedited assignment). These “agents” would be assigned to specific roles and MPO may still be required for some film activity (weapon brandishing, driving with a “Russian Arm,” and other activity likely to create community alarm).

CITY OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

A campaign by the city to encourage support for the industry and to help reduce on-location costs may achieve results – and will certainly make it clear to the industry that they have been heard. FilmLA may be able to assist in the future, with support through its new 501(c)(3) – the FilmLA Foundation.

- Stop “inconvenience” payments – they are not required for permit approval.
- Reduce “use rates” for private properties and business interruption.

City of Los Angeles Fees
As of 4/22/25

Item ID	Name	Base price	TRAVEL CHARGE	RATE TYPE	MINIMUM HOURS
BSS	LA CITY LANE AND STREET CLOSURE FEE	312.00	0.00	Location	0.00
DOTX	LA CITY DOT SIGN REMOVALS AND ENGINEERS	1.00	0.00	Location	0.00
DWP-PRKGA	LA CITY DWP - BASECAMP ANY FACILITY	500.00	0.00	Day	0.00
DWP-PRKGB	LA CITY DWP - CREW PARKING ANY FACILITY EXCLUDING JFB	300.00	0.00	Day	0.00
DWP-PRKGC	LA CITY DWP - CREW PARKING JFB	10.00	0.00	Parking Space	0.00
DWP-PS-A	LA CITY DWP PREP-STRIKE JFB OR SCATTERGOOD	750.00	0.00	Day	0.00
DWP-PS-C	LA CITY DWP-PREP-STRIKE POWER PLANTS OTHER	400.00	0.00	Day	0.00
DWP-STILL	LA CITY DWP - STILL PHOTO	500.00	0.00	Day	0.00
DWPB	LA CITY DWP - OTHER OFFICE BUILDINGS	800.00	0.00	Day	0.00
DWPPEF	LA CITY DWP - OTHER OFFICE BUILDINGS	100.00	0.00	Hour	0.00
DWPPEF	LA CITY DWP ELECTRICITY FEE	1.00	0.00	Location	0.00
DWPPEO	LA CITY DWP ELECTRICAL SAFETY OBSERVER	1,500.00	0.00	Day	0.00
DWPJFB	LA CITY DWP - JOHN FERRARO BLDG	50.00	0.00	Hour	0.00
DWPMON	LA CITY DWP MONITOR	1,200.00	0.00	Day	0.00
DWPP2	LA CITY DWP - OUT OF BASIN POWER PLANTS	800.00	0.00	Day	0.00
DWPP3	LA CITY DWP - POWER PLANTS - OTHER	350.00	0.00	Day	0.00
DWPPNDZ	LA CITY DWP CITY HALL POWER NODE	750.00	0.00	Day	0.00
DWPPSA	LA CITY DWP PREP-STRIKE	60.00	0.00	Hour	0.00
DWPPSAP	LA CITY DWP - ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL	70.00	0.00	Hour	0.00
DWPSOMP	LA CITY DWP - OPERATIONS MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL	50.00	0.00	Hour	0.00
DWPPSS	LA CITY DWP - SECURITY, CUSTODIAL SERVICE FEE	1,500.00	0.00	Day	0.00
DWPW1	LA CITY DWP - WATER RESOURCES DAMS AND STRUCTURES	1,500.00	0.00	Day	0.00
DWPW2	LA CITY DWP RESERVOIRS DAMS AND STRUCTURES	800.00	0.00	Day	0.00
DWPWFN	LA CITY DWP - MUDHOLLAND FOUNTAIN AND PUMPING STATIONS	100.00	0.00	Side	0.00
FIRE URFO	LA CITY DWP FOUNTAIN USE FEE	127.00	127.00	Hour	4.00
FIRE URFO	LA CITY FIRE SAFETY OFFICER	287.00	0.00	Permit	0.00
FIRE URFO	LA CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT SPOT CHECK SURCHARGE	1.00	0.00	Location	0.00
GSDAS	LA CITY GSD ADDITIONAL SERVICES	144.00	0.00	Location	0.00
GSDI1	LA CITY GSD COST RECOVERY LEVEL ONE	410.00	0.00	Location	0.00
GSDI2	LA CITY GSD COST RECOVERY LEVEL TWO	72.00	0.00	Hour	0.00
GSDMON	LA CITY GSD SPECIAL EVENT MONITOR	82.00	0.00	Hour	0.00
GSDMP	LA CITY GSD MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL	350.00	0.00	Location	0.00
GSDPN	LA CITY GSD POWER NODE USE FEE	1.00	0.00	Location	0.00
GSDTR	LA CITY GSD TABLE REMOVAL SERVICE FEE	-	0.00	Day	0.00
GSDU	LA CITY GSD - FACILITY USE FEE	300.00	0.00	Day	0.00
HRBC	LA CITY HARBOR DEPT BASECAMP USE FEE	150.00	0.00	Day	0.00
HRCP	LA CITY HARBOR DEPT CREW PARKING USE FEE	150.00	0.00	Hour	0.00
HRRES	LA CITY HARBOR DEPT EQUIPMENT STORAGE USE FEE	100.00	0.00	Day	0.00
HRRP-S	LA CITY HARBOR DEPARTMENT - PREP STRIKE	112.00	0.00	Day	0.00
HRPP	LA CITY HARBOR DEPT PORT POLICE OFFICER	32.00	0.00	Hour	0.00
HRRS	LA CITY HARBOR DEPARTMENT - SERVICE FEE	300.00	0.00	Hour	0.00
HRRU	LA CITY HARBOR DEPARTMENT - USE FEE	50.00	0.00	Day	0.00
HRUS	LA CITY HARBOR DEPT STILL PHOTO USE FEE	-	0.00	Day	0.00
LIB	LA CITY LIBRARIES - USE FEE	82.00	0.00	Hour	0.00
LIB01	LA CITY LIBRARY OTHER STAFF SERVICE FEE	75.15	0.00	Hour	4.00
LIB02	LA CITY LIBRARY PR SENIOR LIBRARIANS SERVICE FEE	82.00	0.00	Hour	4.00
LIB03	LA CITY LIBRARY SECURITY GUARD	54.00	0.00	Hour	4.00
LIB04	LA CITY LIBRARY - CUSTODIAL FEE	276.00	0.00	Hour	4.00
POSTING_1200	LA CITY POSTING 1200	345.00	0.00	No of Blocks	0.00
POSTING_1500	LA CITY POSTING 1500	414.00	0.00	No of Blocks	0.00
POSTING_1800	LA CITY POSTING 1800		0.00	No of Blocks	0.00

POSTING_300	LA CITY POSTING 300	69.00	0.00	No of Blocks	0.00
POSTING_500	LA CITY POSTING 500	138.00	0.00	No of Blocks	0.00
POSTING_900	LA CITY POSTING 900	207.00	0.00	No of Blocks	0.00
POSTING_MAX	LA CITY POSTING MAX	483.00	0.00	No of Blocks	0.00
RAP001	LA CITY DEPT OF REC AND PARKS CATERING 1-74 PERSONS	225.00	0.00	Day	0.00
RAP002	LA CITY DEPT OF REC AND PARKS CATERING 75 PLUS PERSONS	450.00	0.00	Day	0.00
RAP001	LA CITY DEPT OF REC AND PARKS CREW PARKING 1-15 VEHICLES	100.00	0.00	Day	0.00
RAP002	LA CITY DEPT OF REC AND PARKS CREW PARKING 16 VEHICLES AND UP	300.00	0.00	Day	0.00
RAPCT01	LA CITY DEPT OF REC AND PARKS CAMERA CLASS USE FEE 1-14 PERSONS	75.00	0.00	Day	0.00
RAPCT02	LA CITY DEPT OF REC AND PARKS CAMERA CLASS USE FEE 15 PLUS PERSONS	150.00	0.00	Day	0.00
RAPG6	LA CITY DEPT OF REC AND PARKS PARK MONITOR FEE	38.00	0.00	Hour	0.00
RAPG6P	LA CITY DEPT OF REC AND PARKS SPOT CHECK FEE	150.00	0.00	Location	0.00
RAPG6PU	LA CITY DEPT OF REC AND PARKS STILL PHOTO USE FEE 1-14 PERSONS	75.00	0.00	Day	0.00
RAPGU	LA CITY DEPT OF REC AND PARKS - FILM USE FEE	450.00	0.00	Day	0.00
RAPGU01	LA CITY DEPT OF REC AND PARKS STILL PHOTO USE FEE 15 PLUS PERSONS	150.00	0.00	Day	0.00
RAPGU02	LA CITY DEPT OF REC AND PARKS BASECAMP ONLY USE FEE	450.00	0.00	Day	0.00
RAPLH	LA CITY DEPT OF REC AND PARKS LOCATION HOLD FEE	450.00	0.00	Day	0.00
RAPMAF	LA CITY DEPT OF REC AND PARKS MONITOR REPORTING FEE	76.00	0.00	Shift	0.00
RAPPE	LA CITY DEPT OF REC AND PARKS FACILITY EXPERT FEE	1.00	0.00	Location	0.00
RAPPS	LA CITY DEPT OF REC AND PARKS PREP-STRIKE	150.00	0.00	Day	0.00
RAPSFA	LA CITY DEPT OF REC AND PARKS SPECIAL FACILITY ADMINISTRATION FEE	150.00	0.00	Location	0.00
SAN	LA CITY BUREAU OF SANITATION - USE FEE	-	0.00	Day	0.00
SANDEP	LA CITY BUREAU OF SANITATION - DEPOSIT FEE	1.00	0.00	Day	0.00
SANMON	LA CITY BUREAU OF SANITATION - MONITOR FEE	57.00	0.00	Location	0.00
LAX					
LAX04	LAX AIRPORT SUPERINTENDENT	162.01	162.01	Hour	4
LAX06	LAX AIRPORT SAFETY OFFICER	84.71	85.00	Hour	4
LAX07	LAX AIRPORT POLICE OFFICER	127.62	127.62	Hour	4
LAX08	LAX AIRPORT SECURITY OFFICER	51.10	52.00	Hour	0
LAX09	LAX AIRPORT MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR	1.00	1.00	Hour	4
LAX20	LAX AIRPORT POLICE SARGEANT	164.49	0.00	Hour	0
LAX21	LAX CUSTODIAN I - AIRPORT (SENIOR)	64.85	0.00	Hour	0
Van Nuys Airport					
VNV04	VAN NUYS AIRPORT SUPERINTENDENT	91.89	92.00	Hour	4
VNV06	VAN NUYS AIRPORT SAFETY OFFICER	80.39	80.00	Hour	4
VNV07	VAN NUYS AIRPORT POLICE OFFICER	70.33	70.00	Hour	4
VNV08	VAN NUYS AIRPORT SECURITY OFFICER (VNV FLYAWAY)	78.30	79.00	Hour	4
VNV09	VAN NUYS AIRPORT MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR	1.00	0.00	Location	0
VNV23	VAN NUYS AIRPORT SUPT OF OPERATIONS II	123.50	0.00	Hour	0
VNV24	VAN NUYS AIRPORT SUPT OF OPERATIONS III	95.70	0.00	Hour	0
VNV27	VAN NUYS AIRPORT MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR II	73.49	0.00	Hour	4
VNV31	VAN NUYS AIRPORT POLICE OFFICER II	108.06	109.00	Hour	0