

**DEPARTMENT OF
CITY PLANNING**

COMMISSION OFFICE
(213) 978-1300

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

SAMANTHA MILLMAN
PRESIDENT

CAROLINE CHOE
VICE-PRESIDENT

HELEN CAMPBELL
JENNA HORNSTOCK
HELEN LEUNG

YVETTE LOPEZ-LEDESMA
KAREN MACK
DANA M. PERLMAN
RENEE DAKE WILSON

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA**



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

200 N. SPRING STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-4801
(213) 978-1271

VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP
DIRECTOR

SHANA M.M. BONSTIN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ARTHI L. VARMA, AICP
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

LISA M. WEBBER, AICP
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 21, 2022

Budget and Finance Committee
City Hall, Room 395
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Honorable Members:

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING - MAYOR'S 2022-23 PROPOSED BUDGET

The Department of City Planning appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Mayor's 2022-23 Proposed Budget. Over the course of the past year, COVID-19 continues to have a significant impact on our department, both financially and in the way we operate. I am extremely proud of the dedication from our employees to continue delivering services to the public in the midst of a pandemic which has brought challenges professionally and personally for everyone. We support the Mayor's budget which focuses on restoration, recovery, and equity and justice.

We are also sensitive to the City's budgetary constraints and are only requesting consideration of the following items that we consider extremely critical to maintaining service levels:

Oil Regulation

The Mayor's Proposed Budget provides six-months funding (\$201,774) and resolution authority for four positions consisting of two City Planners and two City Planning Associates to manage policy and case processing work associated with oil regulation and oil drilling programs. The Council (C.F. 17-0447) instructed the Department to begin this work program in the current fiscal year by filling existing vacancies and we are currently interviewing to fill these four positions. We expect to fill these four positions before July 1 and we are requesting full-year funding (or an additional \$201,774) to continue this work program in 2022-23.

Racial Equity and Transformative Planning

The Department requests vital resources to staff a Racial Equity and Transformative Planning Unit to provide neighborhood engagement, land use training, economic development and case management support in line with the Department's focus on racial equity and communities most in need. The Department requests nine-months funding of \$282,382 and position authority for one Principal City Planner, one City Planner, and one City Planning Associate to staff this Unit.

Climate Change and Environmental Justice

The Department originally requested staffing and funding for consulting services for a comprehensive update to the General Plan Framework Element. As part of this request, staff anticipated updating the General Plan to respond to emerging environmental justice issues. While the full request for such a comprehensive work program was not included in the Mayor's Budget, the Department is instead requesting a more targeted request to engage in important Climate Change and Environmental Justice work. This work would include updating the General Plan to create an Environmental Justice Chapter as part of the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles. Evaluating the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles' implementation programs and comprehensive outreach would be key components of this work program. The staffing for this effort would also include staffing to prepare a Climate Vulnerability Assessment, in coordination with the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office, in order to further comply with state law. This request would include position authority and nine-months funding of \$542,844 for one Senior City Planner, two City Planners, and four City Planning Associates, plus \$500,000 in contractual services funding to support public engagement and fund community partners as part of a robust outreach effort.

Major Projects

Additional resources for the Major Projects Section Unit are needed to help augment this full cost recovery program, which processes the City's most regionally significant projects, offering substantial investments in housing, jobs, and the economy. The Department requests funding and position authority for two City Planning Associates and one Senior Administrative Clerk to restore positions that were vacated and subsequently deleted due to the Separation Incentive Program (SIP). These positions are critical to the timely review and processing of CEQA documents and entitlements for projects managed in the Major Projects Section. The Department also requests funding and position authority for one Senior City Planner to provide additional supervisory support and leadership necessary to manage the heavy work program and technically complex nature of entitlement cases in Major Projects. In total, the Department requests nine-months funding of \$287,021 for these four positions.

The Department looks forward to being a key part of the City's recovery efforts and discussing with you how we can do more to serve the City's residents and businesses. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Deputy Director [Shana Bonstin](mailto:shana.bonstin@lacity.org), at (213) 978-1271 or via email at shana.bonstin@lacity.org.

Sincerely,



VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP
Director of Planning

CC: Honorable Budget and Finance Committee Members
Andre Herndon, Chief of Staff to the Mayor
Mary Hodge, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Mayor
Jeanne Holm, Deputy Mayor of Budget and Innovation
Kevin Keller, Deputy Mayor of Economic Development
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
Matthew Szabo, City Administrative Officer