



DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING
RECOMMENDATION REPORT

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

DATE:	May 22, 2025	CASE NO.:	CPC-2024-6096-CA
TIME:	After 8:30 AM*	CEQA NO.:	ENV-2024-6097-CE
PLACE:	Van Nuys City Hall Council Chamber, 2nd floor 14410 Sylvan Street Van Nuys, CA 91401	COUNCIL FILE NO.:	N/A
		LOCATION:	Citywide
		COUNCIL DISTRICT:	All
		PLAN AREA:	All

PUBLIC HEARING: April 8, 2025

SUMMARY:

In response to instructions from the City Council ([Council File \[CF\] No. 22-0736](#)), the Department of City Planning (the Department) prepared the Increasing Transparency on Council Time Extensions Ordinance (Proposed Ordinance). The Proposed Ordinance amends both Chapters 1 and 1A of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to 1) define a “high value development project” and 2) limit the duration and number of time extensions the City Council and applicant may consent to. Thereby implementing a maximum duration for the City Council’s time to act on any application for high value development projects, including appeals, and all California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) appeals.


RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. **Determine** based on the whole of the administrative record, that the proposed Ordinance is not a project under CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the California Public Resource Code and is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the California Public Resource Code;
2. **Approve and Recommend** that the City Council adopt the proposed Zoning Code Amendment Ordinance (Exhibit A) pursuant to Section 13B.1.3.D.3. of Chapter 1A of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC);
3. **Adopt** the Staff Recommendation Report as the Commission’s report on the subject; and
4. **Adopt** the attached Findings.

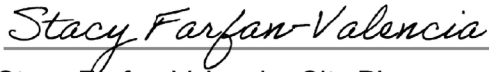
VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP
Director of Planning



Hagu Solomon-Cary, AICP, Principal City
Planner



Nuri Cho, Senior City Planner



Stacy Farfan-Valencia, City Planner

ADVICE TO PUBLIC: *The exact time this report will be considered during the meeting is uncertain since there may be several other items on the agenda. Written communications may be mailed to the Commission Secretariat, Room 272, City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 (Phone No. 213-978-1299) or emailed to cpc@lacity.org. While all written communications are given to the Commission for consideration, the initial packets are sent to Commission the week prior to the Commission's meeting date. If you challenge these agenda items in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing agendized herein, or in written correspondence on these matters delivered to this agency at or prior to the public hearing. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to these programs, services and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or other services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request no later than three working days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by calling the Commission Secretariat at (213) 978-1299.

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PROJECT ANALYSIS

Project Summary

The proposed Increasing Transparency on Council Time Extensions Ordinance (Proposed Ordinance) is a Citywide Code Amendment that will do two things, first, it will add a new definition for high value development projects in Chapters 1 and 1A of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC). Secondly, it will limit the duration and number of time extensions that the City Council and an applicant may consent to. Thereby putting a maximum for the City Council's time to act on any application for high value development projects, including its appeals, and all California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) appeals. The limitation on the duration and number of time extensions will be outlined in Article 13 (Administration) of Chapter 1A.

Background

Motions

On August 19, 2020, the City Council introduced three Motions aimed at reforming the land use approval process and outcomes in response to concerns over how entitlement procedures could be influenced in the legislative process. Generally, the Motions aimed to explore updating zoning throughout the City, deciphering a pathway for approval for high-value development projects and increased transparency in the approval process of projects. The motions included:

- Motion ([CF 20-1042](#)), which discussed the challenges posed by zoning, particularly when rezoning efforts have not kept time with changing needs and trends throughout the City's 470 square miles. The Motion posed alternatives for rezoning throughout the City of Los Angeles. A report discussing this motion was submitted on June 6, 2021.
- Motion ([CF 20-1044](#)), which directs the Department to develop criteria for high value projects, taking into consideration both the total cost as well as the cost per square foot and,
- Motion ([CF 20-1045](#)), which discussed providing more clarity on the development process focusing on transparency and providing a faster path for development for the much needed housing within the City.

Report Back

On June 17, 2022, in response to the motions, the Department provided a report exploring how to differentiate between projects of a certain "value" and provide an alternative approval pathway for certain projects with the intent of avoiding undue influence. The report back provided several recommendations, including what the potential criteria of a "high value development project" could be and clarity on how the City Council can impose limits on the length and number of time extensions available for the Council's consideration of such projects. The LACP recommended utilizing the State standards in the CEQA and the California Water

Code for “regionally significant” projects as potential criteria of high value development projects as these criteria are linked to scale and density rather than monetary value and would create an objective and feasible standard in distinguishing large-scale and high value developments subject to legislative entitlements. Generally, these criteria identify projects meeting the following minimum development scope:

1. 500 dwelling units or guest rooms;
2. 250,000 square feet of commercial office floor area;
3. 500,000 square feet of floor area of any other non-residential use;
4. An equivalent combination of the above.

Based on these recommendations, on June 28, 2024, the City Council adopted an amended motion, instructing the LACP to prepare and present an ordinance that amends the LAMC to add a new definition of a high value development project as proposed in the City Planning report dated June 17, 2022 and limit the delegation of Council’s authority to consent to extensions of time for Council to act on high value development projects, including appeals, as well as all CEQA appeals. Such projects would be required to be agendaized for consideration within a maximum of three time-extensions of 120 days with the consent of the project applicant.

Chapter 1A of the LAMC (New Zoning Code)

In December 2024, the City Council adopted the New Zoning Code, which established Chapter 1A of the LAMC and the first Community Plan to implement the New Zoning Code is the Downtown Community Plan. The New Zoning Code will be applied to all City parcels incrementally on a geographic basis through the update of the City’s Community Plans, and eventually, Chapter 1A will serve as the only zoning code for the City of Los Angeles. However, in the interim, existing Community Plans will continue to implement the Original Zoning Code in Chapter 1 of the LAMC.

Article 13 (Administration) of Chapter 1A of the LAMC

A key component to this amendment is that the administrative changes requested in the motion will primarily be done in Article 13 of Chapter 1A, the New Zoning Code. Article 13 in Chapter 1A contains comprehensively reorganized administrative provisions related to zoning and land use entitlements. While all of the remaining 14 Articles in Chapter 1A will only apply to the newly updated Community Plans, Article 13 is designed to apply to both original and New Zoning Codes and all parcels within the City. Any amendments to Article 13 in Chapter 1A would apply to both existing Community Plans, utilizing the original ZoningCode, and newly updated community plans, utilizing the New Zoning Code, in order to ensure that City Planning has a consistent set of administrative procedures for all Community Plans.

Proposed Ordinance

An initial draft of this Ordinance was released on March 20, 2025 for public review and comment (Exhibit A). The proposed ordinance contains code amendments that fall within the two following categories:

- Addition of a New Definition
 - Addition of definitions for “high value development project” to the Original Zoning Code in Chapter 1; as well as the New Zoning Code in Chapter 1A.
- Time Limits on Extensions
 - Amendment of various Sections in Article 13 of Chapter 1A that limit the duration and number of time extensions the City Council and an applicant may consent to for the City Council’s time to act on any application for high value development projects, including appeals, and all CEQA appeals.

All of the proposed amendments are described in detail below.

Addition of a New Definition

The proposed definitions will be added to Chapters 1 and 1A of the LAMC. Specifically, for Chapter 1 of the LAMC, the Original Zoning Code, the following definition will be added to Section 12.03. Definitions:

High Value Development Project. A new construction development project that exceeds any of the following criteria:

- 500 Dwelling Units or Guest Rooms; or
- 250,000 square feet of Floor Area of office use; or
- 500,000 square feet of Floor Area of any other commercial use; or
- 650,000 square feet of Floor Area of manufacturing or industrial use; or
- Any combination of the above uses or any new construction which requires a Water Supply Assessment pursuant to the California Water Code as determined by the LADWP.

For Chapter 1A of the LAMC, the New Zoning Code, the following definition will be added to Division 14.3. Glossary:

High Value Development Project. A new construction development project that exceeds any of the following criteria:

- 500 dwelling units or lodging units; or
- 250,000 square feet of floor area of office use; or
- 500,000 square feet of floor area of any other general commercial use or heavy commercial use; or
- 650,000 square feet of floor area of light industrial use or heavy industrial use; or

- Any combination of the above uses or any new construction which requires a Water Supply Assessment pursuant to the California Water Code as determined by the LADWP.

For the purposes of lots subject to Chapter I. (General Provisions and Zoning), see Chapter I. (General Provisions and Zoning), Sec. 12.03. (Definitions) of this Code for the definition of a high value development project.

Overall, the new definitions in Chapters 1 and 1A only impact new construction projects. Its criteria is based on numerical thresholds depending on the proposed use or any combination of uses that would require a Water Supply Assessment pursuant to the California Water Code. Numerical thresholds ensure that criteria is objective and is linked to scale and density, rather than monetary value.

The Proposed Ordinance contains two different definitions for Chapter 1 versus Chapter 1A, because while Chapters 1 and 1A contain terms that are similarly defined, each Chapter uses its own specific terms and contains nuances that are different from one another. Additionally, Chapter 1 contains terms that are specifically and more precisely defined whereas Chapter 1A does not. For example, the term “floor area” is defined in Chapter 1 as: *the area in square feet confined within the exterior walls of a Building, but not including the area of the following: exterior walls, stairways, shafts, rooms housing Building-operating equipment or machinery, parking areas with associated driveways and ramps, space dedicated to bicycle parking, space for the landing and storage of helicopters, Outdoor Dining Areas, and Basement storage areas. Buildings on properties zoned RA, RE, RS, and R1, except properties in the Coastal Zone which are not designated as Hillside Area, are subject to the definition of Residential Floor Area,* whereas Chapter 1A defines “floor area” as: *the cumulative amount of interior floor space on a lot, within a room, or within a covered and enclosed space.* Another example is: Chapter 1 uses “guest rooms” for rooms designed for short-term transient occupancy such as hotels, where Chapter 1A uses “lodging” for the same concept. As such, the Proposed Ordinance includes separate definitions for high value development projects in Chapter 1 and Chapter 1A to ensure that properties that are subject to Chapter 1 follow the defined terms in Chapter 1, whereas properties that are subject to Chapter 1A follow the defined terms in Chapter 1A.

Time Limits on Extensions

Currently, the LAMC does not establish a limit on the duration and/or number of extensions that an applicant and the City Council can mutually consent to for the time to act on entitlement applications and all CEQA appeals unless it is explicitly prescribed in a specific entitlement. This makes the project’s timeline for an approval or denial unclear and uncertain, creating the potential for delays and/or undue influence. Per the City Council’s instructions, the Proposed Ordinance would limit the duration and number of time extensions the City Council and applicant may consent to for the City Council’s time to act on any application for a high value development project, including appeals, and all CEQA appeals, thereby creating a more clear and transparent process and providing the public a forum for public input on decisions.

As aforementioned, amendments to the LAMC regarding time extensions will be done in Article 13 as it is designed to apply to both the original and New Zoning Code and all parcels within the City. On account of this, the procedural changes made by the Proposed Ordinance will be reflected in Divisions 13A.2., which is where the General Procedural Elements for all entitlements and appeals are outlined, and 13B.11 that describes all process and procedures for CEQA Provisions in Article 13 of Chapter 1A.

Conclusion

The proposed Increasing Transparency on Council Time Extensions Ordinance is a Citywide Zoning Code Amendment that achieves the City Council's goal to provide the public with a clear and transparent process for high value development projects, including appeals, and all CEQA appeals. Unless it is explicitly prescribed within a specific entitlement, the LAMC does not limit the duration and/or number of extensions that an applicant and the City Council can mutually consent to for the time to act on entitlement applications and all CEQA appeals. This makes the project's timeline for an approval or denial unclear and uncertain, creating the potential for delays and/or undue influence. Per the City Council's instructions, the proposed Ordinance would limit the duration and number of time extensions the City Council and applicant may consent to for the City Council's time to act on any application for a high value development project, its appeals and all CEQA appeals, thereby creating a more clear and transparent process and providing the public a forum for public input on decisions. As such, the Proposed Ordinance attempts to clearly outline what is a "high value development project" and what are the rules for extensions of time Council can agree on, all with the intent to make the legislative approval process timely and transparent. Therefore, based on all information provided herein, City Planning recommends that the City Planning Commission approve and recommend that the City Council adopt the proposed Increasing Transparency on Council Time Extensions Ordinance.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMUNICATIONS

On March 20, 2025, the Department released the proposed Increasing Transparency on Council Time Extensions Ordinance and sent an email to various interested parties, including Neighborhood Councils.

On April 8, 2025, staff hosted a joint virtual informational webinar and staff level public hearing. The informational webinar portion was held to provide information and answer questions. The staff level public hearing portion was held to gather public testimony for the proposed Ordinance. A hearing notice for the public hearing was published in The Daily Commerce per requirements outlined in Chapter 1A of the LAMC, Section 13B.1.3.C.1 (Zoning Code Amendment; Notice; Notice of Hearing). The notice was also posted on the Department's website on March 20, 2025. The joint webinar and public hearing meeting had no attendees. Staff accepted written comments for consideration in this Staff Recommendation Report through April 18, 2025. Staff did not receive any correspondence regarding the proposed Ordinance.

FINDINGS

Land Use Findings

City Charter Finding 556 (General Plan). In accordance with City Charter Section 556, the proposed Increasing Transparency on Council Time Extensions Ordinance is in substantial conformance with the purposes, intent, and provisions of the General Plan in that it would further accomplish the goals, objectives, and policies of the General Plan as outlined below:

Framework Element - Economic Development (Chapter 7)
<p>Objective 7.4 Improve the provision of governmental services, expedite the administrative processing of development applications, and minimize public and private development application costs.</p> <p>Objective 7.8 Maintain and improve municipal service levels throughout the City to support current residents' quality of life and enable Los Angeles to be competitive when attracting desirable new development.</p>

The proposed Increasing Transparency on Council Time Extensions Ordinance achieves the City Council's goal to provide the public with a clear and transparent process for high value development projects, including its appeals, and all CEQA appeals. Currently, the LAMC does not establish a limit on the duration and/or number of extensions that an applicant and the City Council can mutually consent to for the time to act on entitlement applications and all CEQA appeals. This makes the project's timeline for an approval or denial unclear and uncertain, creating the potential for delays and/or undue influence. Per the City Council's instructions, the proposed Ordinance would ensure that 1) high value development projects are defined based on thresholds that set larger scale projects apart from other projects and 2) limit the duration and number of time extensions the City Council and applicant may consent to for the City Council's time to act on any application for a high value development project, its appeals and all CEQA appeals. All with the intent of guaranteeing that these projects are subject to a more transparent legislative process and are not subject to undue influence given their value to the City.

City Charter Finding 558 and LAMC Section 12.32 (Public Necessity, Convenience, General Welfare, and Good Zoning Practice). In accordance with City Charter Section 558 (b)(2) and Section 12.32 C.2 and C.7 of the LAMC, the proposed Increasing Transparency on Council Time Extensions Ordinance is in substantial conformance with public necessity, convenience, general welfare, and good zoning practice because it provides the public with a clear, timely and transparent process for high value development projects, including its appeals, and all CEQA appeals. The amendments guarantee that these projects are subject to a more transparent legislative process and are not subject to unnecessary delays given their value to the City.

Environmental Findings

The Department has determined, based on the whole of the administrative record, that the Proposed Increasing Transparency on Council Time Extensions Ordinance (Proposed Ordinance) is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061(b)(3) and Section 15378(b)(5) (Exhibit B). The Proposed Ordinance solely modifies administrative procedures for the processing of entitlements and CEQA appeals extension requests and has no effect on the physical environment.

Pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3), the Proposed Ordinance is not a project under CEQA, because the “activity is covered by the common sense exception that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.”

The Proposed Ordinance is also not a project under CEQA pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) because “organization or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment” are not considered a project. The Proposed Ordinance does not change any discretionary actions into non-discretionary actions. Further, the Proposed Ordinance does not change the zoning of any properties. The Proposed changes are limited to clarifications of definitions and administrative procedures and will not have an effect on the physical environment. As such, the Proposed Ordinance does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and is not considered a “project” under CEQA.

EXHIBIT A

Initial Draft Proposed Ordinance (March 2025)

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance amending Section 12.03 of Article 2 of Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) and Sections 13A.2.1., 13A.2.5., 13A.2.8., and 13B.11.1. of Article 13 and Division 14.3 of Article 14 of Chapter 1A of the LAMC to define a high value development project and limit the length and number of time extensions the City Council and applicant may consent to for the City Council's time to act on any application for a high value development project and all California Environmental Quality Act appeals.

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The following definition is added to Section 12.03 of Article 2 of Chapter 1 of the LAMC in alphabetical order to read as follows:

High Value Development Project. A new construction development project that exceeds any of the following criteria:

- 500 Dwelling Units or Guest Rooms; or
- 250,000 square feet of Floor Area of office use; or
- 500,000 square feet of Floor Area of any other commercial use; or
- 650,000 square feet of Floor Area of manufacturing or industrial use; or
- Any combination of the above uses or any new construction which requires a Water Supply Assessment pursuant to the California Water Code as determined by the LADWP.

Section 2. Section 13A.2.1. of Division 13A.2. of Part 13A. of Article 13 of Chapter 1A of the LAMC shall be amended to add a new Subsection C to read as follows:

C. Definitions

In those instances where a term is utilized in this Article (Administration) and is defined in both Chapter I. (General Provisions and Zoning), Sec. 12.03 (Definitions) and Sec. 14.3. (Glossary) of this Chapter, the defined term in Chapter I. (General Provisions and Zoning), Sec. 12.03 (Definitions) shall apply to areas of the City subject to Chapter I. (General Provisions and Zoning) of this

Code, and the defined term in Sec. 14.3. (Glossary) of this Chapter shall apply to areas of the City subject to this Zoning Code (Chapter 1A).

Section 3. Subsection A. of Section 13A.2.5. of Division 13A.2. of Part 13A. of Article 13 of Chapter 1A of the LAMC shall be amended to add the following:

2. For a high value development project, extensions by mutual consent on the City Council's time to act shall be limited to up to three extensions of 120 days each for a maximum total of 360 days. The City Council shall render a decision prior to the expiration of the final time extension.

~~2.~~ 3. Where extensions on the City Council's time to act on a matter may be granted by mutual consent of an applicant ~~application~~ and the City Council, the Council President or the Council President's councilmember designee may consent to a time extension on behalf of the City Council.

Section 4. Subsection F. of Section 13A.2.8. of Division 13A.2. of Part 13A. of Article 13 of Chapter 1A of the LAMC shall be amended to add the following:

2. For appeals of a high value development project and/or any California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Clearance, extensions by mutual consent on the City Council's time to act shall be limited to up to three extensions of 120 days each, for a maximum total of 360 days. The City Council shall render a decision prior to the expiration of the final time extension.

~~2.3.~~ Failure of the appellate body to render a timely decision shall result in the denial of the appeal.

Section 5. Subparagraph a. of Paragraph 7. of Subsection F. of Section 13B.11.1. of Division 13B.11. of Part 13B. of Article 13 of Chapter 1A of the LAMC shall be amended to read as follows:

a. Timeline for City Council Hearing

The City Council shall hold a public hearing before deciding the appeal, giving notice in the manner specified in Subsection C. (Notice Rules for CEQA) of this Section. The appeal shall be decided by the City Council within 75 days of the

appeal being filed. The timeline to decide the appeal may be extended by ~~the mutual consent of the Project applicant and the City Council.~~ up to three extensions of 120 days each, for a maximum total of 360 days with the mutual consent of the Project applicant and the City Council. The City Council shall render a decision prior to the expiration of the final time extension.

Section 6. Division 14.3. of Article 14 of Chapter 1A shall be amended to add the following definition in alphabetical order:

High Value Development Project. High value development project is defined as new construction that exceeds any of the following criteria:

- 500 dwelling units or lodging units; or
- 250,000 square feet of floor area of office use; or
- 500,000 square feet of floor area of any other general commercial use or heavy commercial use; or
- 650,000 square feet of floor area of light industrial use or heavy industrial use; or
- Any combination of the above uses or any new construction which requires a Water Supply Assessment pursuant to the California Water Code as determined by the LADWP.

For the purposes of lots subject to Chapter I. (General Provisions and Zoning), see Chapter I. (General Provisions and Zoning), Sec. 12.03 (Definitions) of this Code for the definition of a high value development project.

Section 7. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions of this ordinance that can be implemented without the invalid provisions. To this end, the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

Section 8. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by positing for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

EXHIBIT B

Notice of Exemption ENV-2024-6097-CE

COUNTY CLERK'S USE

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
200 NORTH SPRING STREET, ROOM 395
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

(PRC Section 21152; CEQA Guidelines Section 15062)

Pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21152(b) and CEQA Guidelines § 15062, the notice should be posted with the County Clerk by mailing the form and posting fee payment to the following address: Los Angeles County Clerk/Recorder, Environmental Notices, P.O. Box 1208, Norwalk, CA 90650. Pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21167 (d), the posting of this notice starts a 35-day statute of limitations on court challenges to reliance on an exemption for the project. Failure to file this notice as provided above, results in the statute of limitations being extended to 180 days.

PARENT CASE NUMBER(S) / REQUESTED ENTITLEMENTS

CPC-2024-6096-CA / Citywide Zoning Code Amendment

LEAD CITY AGENCY

City of Los Angeles (Department of City Planning)

CASE NUMBER

ENV-2024-6097-CE

PROJECT TITLE

Ordinance

COUNCIL DISTRICT

All

PROJECT LOCATION (Street Address and Cross Streets and/or Attached Map)

Citywide

☐ Map attached.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Zoning Code Amendment to amend Chapter 1 and 1A of LAMC to define a high value development project and limit the duration and number of time extensions the City Council and applicants may consent to before making a decision on any application for high value development projects, including appeals, and all California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) appeals.

☐ Additional page(s) attached.

NAME OF APPLICANT / OWNER:

N/A

CONTACT PERSON (If different from Applicant/Owner above)

Stacy Farfan-Valencia

(AREA CODE) TELEPHONE NUMBER

(213) 978-1372

EXT.

EXEMPT STATUS: (Check all boxes, and include all exemptions, that apply and provide relevant citations.)

STATE CEQA STATUTE & GUIDELINES

☐ STATUTORY EXEMPTION(S)

Public Resources Code Section(s) _____

☐ CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION(S) (State CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15301-15333 / Class 1-Class 33)

CEQA Guideline Section(s) / Class(es) _____

☒ OTHER BASIS FOR EXEMPTION (E.g., CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) or (b)(4) or Section 15378(b))

State CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15061(b)(3) and/or Sec. 15378(b)(5)

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION:

☒ Additional page(s) attached

☐ None of the exceptions in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 to the categorical exemption(s) apply to the Project.

☐ The project is identified in one or more of the list of activities in the City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines as cited in the justification.

IF FILED BY APPLICANT, ATTACH CERTIFIED DOCUMENT ISSUED BY THE CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT STATING THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS FOUND THE PROJECT TO BE EXEMPT.

If different from the applicant, the identity of the person undertaking the project.

CITY STAFF USE ONLY:

CITY STAFF NAME AND SIGNATURE

Stacy Farfan-Valencia

STAFF TITLE

City Planner

ENTITLEMENTS APPROVED

DISTRIBUTION: County Clerk, Agency Record

Rev. 6-22-2021

JUSTIFICATION FOR CEQA EXEMPTION

The Department of City Planning has determined, based on the whole of the administrative record, that the Proposed Increasing Transparency on Council Time Extensions Ordinance (Proposed Ordinance) is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061(b)(3) and Section 15378(b)(5). The Proposed Ordinance solely modifies administrative procedures for the processing of entitlements and CEQA appeals extension requests and has no effect on the physical environment.

Pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3), the Proposed Ordinance is not a project under CEQA, because the “activity is covered by the common sense exception that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.”

The Proposed Ordinance is also not a project under CEQA pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) because “organization or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment” are not considered a project. The Proposed Ordinance does not change any discretionary actions into non-discretionary actions. Further, the Proposed Ordinance does not change the zoning of any properties. The Proposed changes are limited to clarifications of definitions and administrative procedures and will not have an effect on the physical environment. As such, the Proposed Ordinance does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and is not considered a “project” under CEQA.