

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: August 6, 2026

TO: The Honorable City Council

FROM: Steve Kang 
President, Board of Public Works
Chief Film Liaison

**SUBJECT: CF 25-1502: KEEP HOLLYWOOD HOME – EXECUTIVE
DIRECTIVE #11 PROGRESS REPORT**

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council receive and file this report, as it is provided for informational purposes only.

DISCUSSION

On May 20, 2025, Mayor Karen Bass issued *Executive Directive #11 – Reel Change: Supporting Local Film and Television Production (ED11)*, with the goal of implementing a range of procedural changes that will improve efficiencies and streamline permitting for film and television productions shooting within the City.

ED11 built on Mayor Bass' Executive Directive #8 (ED8), which established a citywide Film and Television Task Force, which generally meets quarterly and is led by the President of the Board of Public Works. ED8 also instructed all applicable departments to establish dedicated Film Liaisons, many of whom are now responsible for the implementation of ED11. Below is a summary of the measures respective departments and agencies have taken pursuant to ED11.

Board of Public Works:

In August 2025, Mayor Bass appointed Board of Public Works President Steve Kang to serve as the City's Chief Film Liaison. The Liaison's primary duties are to implement Executive Directives 8 and 11, work with departments on recommending and implementing additional policy changes, oversee the City's contract with FilmLA, triage time-sensitive production issues, and serve as the City's primary liaison to the film and television industry.

Since the establishment of ED11, the Chief Film Liaison has led on numerous policy changes, some of which are noted in this report. These improvements include but are not limited to:

- Filming fees at Griffith Observatory have been reduced by up to 70%, to 2002 levels;

- The Central Library has reopened for filming by major productions, after being closed to such activity since the early 2000s;
- The Port of Los Angeles (POLA) has halved the time it takes to review filming applications;
- The Department of Transportation (LADOT) has extended staff hours to ensure timely on-street signage posting requests and changes for local productions;
- LADOT has pre-approved certain closures in Downtown, allowing FilmLA to authorize curb lanes and local street closures in accordance with established guidelines;
- LADOT has launched a one-year pilot program to grant 20% discount
- The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) has identified activity and locations where the assignment of personnel can either be waived or decreased.

FilmLA:

FilmLA is the City's contractor with regards to film permitting, serving as the conduit between City departments and film productions, location managers and crew. FilmLA provides regular updates to the City through established processes, including an annual report and other periodic reports required under the City's contract and related City procedures. FilmLA is in the process of coordinating with the appropriate City departments and officials responses to ED11 as follows:

- **On-Site Monitors and Staff.** The assignment of FilmLA Monitors to permitted locations has long been at the discretion of City permit authorities. Over the years we have heard from community representatives that FilmLA Monitors contribute in a positive way by ensuring that real time needs/issues of the community are being addressed immediately. The monitors also provide a level of encouragement needed for productions to abide specific conditions which in turn hold-up community agreements. With the help of Location Professionals and LAPD, FilmLA published revised guidance for use of Motion Picture Officers for set supervision in November 2025. This same matter is addressed by the City Council Motion in CF 25-1509-S1.
- **Public Infrastructure Projects.** FilmLA is to report on public infrastructure projects that could impact frequently filmed locations. We are on record about streetscape improvements to Downtown that reduce productions' ability to park production vehicles near their locations. We hope to schedule another meeting soon with LADOT to discuss any new projects in the works, and share guidance with the Office of the Mayor as required.
- **Report Fee Structures.** FilmLA makes available for public inspection on its website a comprehensive list of filming related fees charged by FilmLA, the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, and all other client jurisdictions for film permits and related services. The published list of fees is updated annually or as often as changes are made.

- **Coordination with LA County.** FilmLA is a regular participant in Film Task Forces organized by the City and County. BPW President and Chief Film Liaison Steve Kang and Gary Smith from the County Department of Economic Opportunity moved recently to combine the two task forces and promote regional collaboration.

Port of Los Angeles:

The Port of Los Angeles (POLA) is a frequent location for film and television productions. Due to the busy and sensitive nature of Port operations, all productions must submit proof of insurance prior to receiving a permit to film on Port property. Prior to ED11, it took the Port an average of 7 business days to verify and review productions' insurance requirements. ED11 requested that the Port's review time be decreased to 4 business days.

POLA successfully implemented this request in summer 2025, and since that time it has been reviewing productions' insurance requirements in 4 business days, which represents a 43% improvement. Since the implementation of the shorter review time, the Port has not received any negative feedback from productions or from the industry.

Bureau of Engineering:

The Bureau of Engineering (BOE) issues permits to productions that seek to physically alter streets in the Public Right of Way. The permits ensure that the production returns the street to its original condition. An example might be equipment that cracks or breaks the asphalt.

Additionally, BOE manages the Public Way Reservation System (PWRS), a publicly available GIS mapping tool that provides scheduling, location, and contact information for all permitted projects taking place on public rights-of-way within the City. PWRS is heavily utilized by FilmLA permit coordinators when processing permit applications, to minimize conflicts between productions and infrastructure projects.

Bureau of Street Services:

The Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA) started its FY 25-26 resurfacing program in spring 2025, and provides advance notification of upcoming projects via written and electronic communications, as well as online posting. Additionally, StreetsLA utilizes the PWRS for major infrastructure and construction projects, thus allowing FilmLA, film productions, and other stakeholders to learn and plan in advance of scheduling a production at a certain location.

Los Angeles Fire Department:

The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) Film Unit has a permit turnaround time of less than three hours, unless the request comes in after hours. Since the issuance of ED11, LAFD has been meeting regularly with the Chief Film Liaison. The Department is working directly with the Film Liaison to ensure that the Film Unit has long-term continuity in operations and personnel.

Department of Water and Power:

The Department of Water and Power (LADWP) facilitates filming in the following ways:

- **On-site Monitors and Staff:** When filming is taking place on LADWP property, a minimum of one (1) Filming Monitor (i.e., Security Officer, or other operations staff) is required to be present for the entire duration of the shoot for safety and security purposes. The total number of Filming Monitors will be determined by the approving facility/property management group and/or Security Services Division and may vary depending on the location and scope of the project. For Base Camp/Crew Parking requests, usually one (1) Security Officer is sufficient to open and close locations with restricted access, at the rate of \$50 for 1 hour to open and \$50 for 1 hour to close.
- **Fees:** The current fees have remained consistent for over 10 years. LADWP does not have any fee changes to propose at this time. Additionally, the Department does not charge production companies for pre-shoot location/technical scouts or tours. If scouting is requested on multiple occasions, LADWP will do its best to make accommodations. Security officers, administrative staff, and operations staff may assist as escort depending on the location and requested date/time.

When requests for filming/base camp/crew parking are approved by the appropriate System/management staff, production is billed for a combination of the following fees:

- Facility Use (base rate dependent on the type of property, type of request)
- Base Camp (if applicable; rate dependent on the type of property)
- Crew Parking (if applicable; rate dependent on the type of property)
- Service / Filming Monitor (rate dependent on the scope of the request, type of Filming Monitor required)

All fees are to be collected by FilmLA (except Crew Parking at the John Ferraro Building, which production must pay directly to the LADWP Commuter and Reservation Services Office).

Non-profit/student productions that are verified and meet criteria reviewed by FilmLA can have filming, base camp, and crew parking fees waived; service fees associated with the Filming Monitors and other staff would still apply.

- **Properties Available for Filming:** LADWP maintains a publicly accessible, non-exhaustive database of properties that may be used for filming activities, visible on its website: <https://www.ladwp.com/doing-business-ladwp/filming-locations>.

Production companies interested in filming on LADWP property may submit inquiries to the LADWP Film Coordination Office, in the Security Services Division. Inquiries may be made with regards to any known LADWP properties (like those listed on the website) or properties that may require additional verification. Requests for properties outside of the LA Basin area are handled by the LADWP Real Estate Office based in Bishop.

Requests are usually forwarded to the approving System/group for review on the same day as they are received. Water System property requests require at least 5 days' lead time for review. Depending on operations, the Overhead Transmission Office is usually able to provide feedback/approval for Transmission Right of Way lots within 2 business days. In recent months, the Department has received some requests that were for 1-2 business days out from the first day of activity, which is outside of FilmLA's standard. However, LADWP and FilmLA have coordinated closely to process these types of last-minute permits.

Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT):

In response to ED11, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) carefully assessed operational and procedural adjustments. Recognizing the vital role of a thriving film industry in the City's economy and cultural identity, LADOT is committed to aligning its efforts to set the stage for lasting prosperity and resilience.

On-site Monitors and Staff

LADOT continues to work successfully in coordination with FilmLA to support film production across the city through a range of traffic and parking-related services. These services include:

- **Temporary Worksite Traffic Control Plan Review** through the Special Traffic Operations Division;
- **Traffic Management Support** through the deployment of traffic engineers and white glove Traffic Officers;
- **Posting of Temporary Parking Prohibition Signs** as requested via the LADOT field operations team;
- **Coordination for the Removal of Traffic Control Devices**, including signage, signal equipment, and bollards, via our dedicated coordination team;
- **LADOT Traffic Electricians** for signal timing adjustments as needed during filming.

LADOT does not assign on-site monitors to filming locations as part of its standard procedure. However, in collaboration with FilmLA, LADOT personnel may be assigned to a filming location on a case-by-case basis to support traffic management or signal modification needs. Efforts are made to ensure coordination is efficient, and that there is no unnecessary duplication of resources or efforts among involved parties.

Ongoing Communication

LADOT staff continues to maintain open and ongoing communication with FilmLA to ensure that the Department's services are aligned with the needs of the filming industry. LADOT's goal is to provide the necessary support to facilitate productions.

LADOT is currently an active participant in the quarterly joint City and County of LA Task Force facilitated by the Chief Film Liaison, which brings together all relevant departments, and meets regularly with the Liaison as well as key partners including the Mayor's Office. To further enhance coordination, LADOT will continue to provide a monthly report to both the Mayor's Office and FilmLA. This report includes a list of LADOT public infrastructure projects, both current and in the planning stage, that could affect frequently used filming locations. It also outlines LADOT-reviewed street closures and detours related to major construction and special events.

On-Street Signage Posting - Extension of Staff Coverage

LADOT Field Services, Paint & Sign Temporary Sign Division currently operates Monday through Friday from 5:00 AM to 1:30 PM, with work order requests accepted until 4:00 PM. To align with ED11, LADOT extended its hours to 5:00 AM – 3:30 PM ensuring a representative is accessible throughout the core business day for on-street signage posting. Additionally, the work order request deadline was extended to 5:00 PM. This adjustment brings LADOT's schedule in line with similar departments, such as the StreetsLA Special Events Division, which operates Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

Early start times are essential to ensure compliance with California Vehicle Code Section 22651(m), which requires temporary signs to be posted at least 24 hours before their effective date and time. However, LADOT proactively posts signs 48 hours in advance, giving the community additional time to comply. To ensure timely postings, sign posting operations begin as early as 12:00 AM, depending on workload, allowing sign posters to avoid peak-hour traffic and efficiently reach designated areas.

Coordination with FilmLA

LADOT continues to work with FilmLA to coordinate temporary signage operations efficiently. The Film LA LADOT Posting Process and Procedures outline the established, mutually agreed-upon workflow for handling temporary sign requests. Film LA has direct access to LADOT's team system, allowing them to create temporary sign work orders for LADOT's review and approval.

- Work orders are entered into the system daily by 4:00 PM
- The Temporary Signs Unit begins processing requests at 12:00 AM the following day
- Processing requires one full day to complete location verification and payment approval

All communication between Film LA and LADOT is conducted via email to maintain efficiency and consistency.

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS (RAP):

The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) is one of the City agencies most actively involved in filming activities.

- **Park Film Office:** To facilitate film production activity, RAP maintains a Park Film Office, which currently structures its single point of contact by assigning two part-time staff members to each film permit. This ensures full coverage throughout an eight-hour operational window and guarantees that a responsive contact is always available. Both staff members are included in all communications with location managers and production teams to stay informed of updates in real time. This approach maintains continuity and a high level of service, ensuring that production needs are met even when one staff member is off duty.
- **Fees:** RAP's primary objective with regards to fees is cost recovery, and is currently operating under a fee structure that has remained generally unchanged for over a decade. The Department provides location scouting support at no cost during regular business hours, and offers after-hours or weekend scouts on a cost-recovery basis.

In response to ED11, effective March 2026 filming-related fees at Griffith Observatory have been reduced to their 2002 levels. Filming is currently permitted based on site availability and operational considerations. While productions may be accommodated during both open and closed hours, priority remains with the Observatory's core public-serving mission. In response to the directive, the Department will further refine its approach to prioritize filming during periods when the Observatory is closed to the public and not otherwise programmed. RAP will also develop a recommended annual cap on filming days.

- **RAP Film Monitors:** On-site monitoring during filming is determined based on clearly defined criteria, including: production size, location within a Very High Fire Severity Zone, and the presence of sensitive habitats or wildlife. Staffing levels are carefully calibrated to avoid duplication while ensuring appropriate oversight. RAP also provides nesting bird surveys using internal urban ecologist contracts at no cost to productions to facilitate access to large parks with wildlife and native habitat to maintain compliance with federal, state and local laws.

RAP recommends that a general fund subsidy be provided to offset costs to production for the coordination and onsite monitoring of commercial filming related activities in parks. This would eliminate or reduce costs associated for production companies. While opportunities to further reduce or clarify fees are limited by the absence of dedicated funding to offset staffing costs, RAP is committed to continuing to work with FilmLA and other partners to evaluate potential adjustments. The Department will continue refining its practices to balance operational efficiency, customer service, and stewardship of park resources.