FORM GEN. 160 (Rev. 8-12)

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: July 31, 2026

TO: The Honorable City Council

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

SUBJECT: CF 25-1509-S1: KEEP HOLLYWOOD HOME – SPECIAL CONDITIONS REPEAL & UNIFIED FILMING FRAMEWORK

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

DISCUSSION
For a number of years, the City has implemented various special conditions for filming in certain neighborhoods. While these measures are intended to appropriately balance filming needs with communities' quality of life, the fragmented nature of the conditions has often served as a barrier to productions seeking to film in the City. CF 25-1509-S1 directed various departments to report on establishing a unified citywide filming conditions framework, including:

- Standardizing notification, survey, and monitoring requirements;
- Standardizing departmental operational procedures;
- Ensuring fair and predictable access to City facilities;
- Clarifying that private-property filming does not trigger City fees;
- Ongoing review and transparency, including annual Council review of all filming policies;
- Rescinding of existing special filming conditions across all neighborhoods;
- Formal establishment of a City Film Liaison position within the Board of Public Works;
- Publication of the unified conditions as a Citywide Filming Handbook;
- Establishment of a coordinated outreach campaign to educate stakeholders on the updated policies.

This report provides initial feedback from multiple departments on the above requests.

Board of Public Works:

In August 2025, Mayor Bass appointed Board of Public Works (BPW) President Steve Kang to serve as the City's Chief Film Liaison. The appointment of the Board of Public Works President to serve in this role is in keeping with the practices of past mayoral administrations. 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.

The BPW has proposed that the FY 2026-27 Budget establish an additional, full-time position within the Board Office that would assist the BPW President in executing his Film Liaison duties.

Los Angeles Police Department:
The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) is the agency that ultimately issues filming permits in the City, and the department has clear, published criteria outlining when a retired or active off-duty officer (Motion Picture Officer) is required. This information is available on the FilmLA website for filmmakers to review, along with additional guidance provided by the LAPD Film Unit and FilmLA if necessary.

These criteria are designed as minimum requirements to avoid overburdening productions while keeping public safety at the forefront. In 2025, the criteria were further refined with input from industry stakeholders, residents, and the collective expertise of multiple City departments.

In cases where a production demonstrates it can safely conduct an activity without the use of a Motion Picture Officer (MPO) and clearly outlines how it will do so or where it is evident that an MPO is not necessary, the requirement may be waived.

Los Angeles Fire Department:
The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) Film Unit maintains a regularly updated website at https://lafd.org/film-unit, which provides all pertinent documents pertaining to film permits or certified studios. The website also lists the Film Unit's contact email and phone number. The Film Unit's office is open every day, 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and its response time is within three hours.

Department of Recreation and Parks:
The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) is committed to the objectives of enhanced transparency and procedural consistency. In this effort, RAP is actively collaborating with FilmLA and the Board of Public Works Film Liaison to harmonize criteria and streamline administrative processes.

- Filming Conditions Matrix

RAP has established standardized criteria to determine when a park film monitor is required. These guidelines will be synthesized into a clear, publicly accessible Filming Conditions Matrix. Monitor assignments are based on operational requirements, public safety, and the preservation of natural resources. Core conditions include:

- Filming within High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones
- Activity occurring outside standard park hours that necessitates access control
- Production requests involving smoking by cast or crew
- Larger-scale productions, generally exceeding 75 individuals
- Filming in proximity to sensitive wildlife habitats
- Use of weapons, special effects, or other high-risk elements

While the Matrix will provide definitive guidance on general conditions, it must retain flexibility, as site-specific variables and the unique nature of each production often dictate specific staffing needs.

- Limiting Monitor Requirements

  RAP is evaluating opportunities to further refine monitor utilization, aligning with directives to focus on high-impact activities such as amplified sound, full closures, pyrotechnics, and drones. However, factors such as fire risk and environmental sensitivity remain paramount in the park context. Limiting monitors exclusively to these activities could result in significant operational impacts and community concerns regarding park access and resource protection. RAP will continue working with stakeholders to reduce unnecessary staffing while maintaining necessary oversight.

- Appeals and Coordination

  RAP continues to engage in regular coordination with the BPW Film Liaison and supports a unified, transparent appeals and override framework to ensure citywide accountability and departmental consistency.

- Fee Evaluation

  The Department is open to considering reduced or nominal fees for productions that do not require exclusive space or additional staffing. It is important to note that RAP currently operates on a cost-recovery model without dedicated General Fund support for film permitting. Existing revenues are currently insufficient to fully sustain necessary staffing levels.

  Transitioning to a reduced-fee model would necessitate a General Fund subsidy. If service levels were expanded to include increased full-time coverage, this required subsidy could rise.

- Service Levels and Response Times
  RAP endeavors to respond to production inquiries within 24 hours and currently consistently meets the 72 hour max implemented by FilmLA. To maintain this service standard and ensure thorough review, any substantive modifications to a filming request will require a reset of the internal review timeline.

The Department remains dedicated to balancing efficiency and customer service with its fundamental responsibility to protect park resources and address community expectations.

Department of Transportation:
The Department of Transportation (LADOT) has provided the following response to the instructions in this Motion:

- Standardizing Notification, Survey, and Monitoring Requirements
  The requirements listed in the motion are not set by LADOT.

- Standardizing Departmental Operational Procedures
  - Require one working day response standards for all filming inquiries across departments
    - LADOT is committed to meeting this standard. The Department can ensure that every email/phone call receives an initial response within one business day. However, depending on the complexity of the request, additional time may be required to provide a complete and accurate resolution. LADOT will continue to communicate promptly and transparently with FilmLA and production teams as the Department works through more detailed inquiries.
  - Remove detailed parking overhead map requirements from standard permit applications
    - This is not an LADOT requirement.
  - Extend LADOT posting deadline to 5:00 PM that are 24 hours before production
    - LADOT currently provides 48 hours of community notice for temporary parking restrictions. This extended window is intentional: many of the neighborhoods most impacted by filming already experience significant parking scarcity, and reducing the notice period would likely lead to increased community complaints, higher rates of towing, and more citations. Maintaining the 48-hour notice standard helps ensure that residents have a reasonable opportunity to relocate their vehicles and reduces the operational and equity impacts associated with last-minute posting.

- Mandate that departments maintain at least 80% full-time staff assigned to filming to support timely review and issue resolution
    - LADOT has 3 sign posters funded for film production work, and all positions are currently filled. LADOT does not have any other positions funded for film-related work.

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 supports a City-endorsed process to review, reaffirm, or retire Special Conditions for Filming in area neighborhoods, reducing process ambiguity created by the City's current mix of codified and non-codified City rules. In this effort, we are eager to collaborate with all stakeholders, including LAPD, neighborhood groups, and local field offices of the Los Angeles City Council.

Special Conditions and Community Filming Surveys provide a mechanism to allow exceptional and otherwise prohibited activity (such as overnight filming) to take place in area neighborhoods. A City-endorsed process allowing activity exceptions is needed to preserve filmmaker access and respect the neighborhood's quality of life.

FilmLA recommends that all the Special Conditions still in use by FilmLA and the City – totaling several dozen in all – be regularly reviewed for relevance and either updated and reaffirmed or retired. FilmLA began this process with LAPD in 2025, and together 20 sets of Special Conditions were determined to no longer be relevant. This case-by-case review process is preferable to a blanket deletion of all Conditions that exist, to keep filming welcome in heavily filmed or sensitive neighborhoods. Also, FilmLA has worked in collaboration with Council Districts, in which Special Conditions exist, to discuss their relevance and in specific cases their need to remain in place.

FilmLA fully supports "uncodifying" Special Conditions that were approved through City Council action; these are the Arts District and Echo Park & Elysian Park Conditions. Codification makes adjusting or archiving outdated Conditions needlessly cumbersome. Both areas are popular locales for filming. In FilmLA's view, both would be better served by having a set of guidelines (not codified) created by FilmLA in conjunction with stakeholder groups to maintain balance for the community and industry.

When it comes to Community Surveys, these too have some utility in keeping filming welcome in communities. The City developed the community survey process to work around standing City restrictions tied to conducting "business" (including filming) outside of standard hours in residential zones, and to address the frequency and impact on communities when filmmakers ask to take over neighborhood parking and close area streets to traffic. Without the survey process, the

industry would not have a way to request exceptions to standing rules, and the community as a whole would be deprived of the opportunity to communicate concerns in advance of the proposed activity. Because the Motion does not provide an alternative and/or a change to current guidelines or restrictions, we recommend that the Motion be amended, so as not to make large-scale and exceptional filming activity impossible in Los Angeles by default.

- Standardizing Notifications, Surveys, and Monitoring Requirements
    - As mentioned above, eliminating the signature survey requirements (except for extraordinary activity after 10 pm and before 7 am) does not give the City or FilmLA a mechanism to address filming frequency, extensive posting requests, or full street closures, or to allow production companies to film 24/7 in residential areas. Although current rules do not limit the hours of filming in commercial districts, it does in residential areas. If this were to take effect, the Noise Ordinance would require that production companies be limited to film between the hours of 7 am and 10 pm only.
    - Signature requirements for base camping and crew parking would normally be triggered for activity happening after 10 pm or before 7 am if they are located within 300’ of a residential building or community. If there is no signature requirement, the City and FilmLA will be inundated with residential complaints triggered by noise and lighting.
    - FilmLA will collaborate with City departments on providing criteria on when personnel are required, including FilmLA monitors. This has already been done with LAPD.
    - Clarifying that Private-Property Filming Does Not Trigger City Fees: FilmLA asks for clarification on whether this proposal would include the current LAFD Spot Check fee.

FilmLA will be happy to work in partnership with the City Film Liaison on creating a Filming Handbook and coordinating an outreach campaign. Please note that this will require additional staff time and resources.