



agenda

COASTAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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CSPNC | Planning, Land Use, and Transportation Committee

February 10, 2024 2:30 p.m.

MINUTES

- 1) The meeting was called to Order at 2:36 pm
- 2) **Roll Call** – in attendance:
- 3) Robin Rudisill, Chair Greg Ellis Allen Franz Noel Gould Adele Healy
John Kopczynski Ziggy Mrkich Rick Perkins June Smith Mona Sutton Elise Swanson
- 4) **Approval of Minutes** – the January 6th Minutes were approved unanimously
- 5) **Announcements**
- 6) **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**
- 7) **Chair Update**
- 8) **Barlow Saxton Bunker** - status provided
- 9) **Affordable Housing Streamlining Ordinance/concerns about AB 785 – will discuss further at the Joint Planning meeting**
<https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB785/id/2833815>
- 10) **3623 Meyler St (DIR-2023-6912-CDP)**-- Partial demo and addition and renovation of an existing 1,351 SFD, adding 16 SF to the first floor w/ 776 SF deck and a new 1,094 SF second floor in R1-1XL zone--continued
- 11) **CEQA Thresholds Related to:**

A. Construction Noise and Vibration

Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guideline Section 15064.7(b), the Department of City Planning (Department) is considering adopting updated thresholds of significance and methodologies to analyze impacts for construction noise and vibration. Pursuant to the authority of the Director of Planning (Director) under Los Angeles Charter Section 506 to make and enforce any necessary rules and regulations, the Director is considering the adoption of updated thresholds and methodology in the Department’s preparation of CEQA clearances. Below is a summary of the proposed updates to the CEQA Thresholds related to Construction Noise and Vibration.

An analysis of the City’s current construction noise thresholds, as well as a review of best practices and thresholds used by other jurisdictions, found that the City’s existing thresholds are overly conservative, especially in the context of impacts to public health. In particular, the use of a numeric threshold based on the increase in decibel levels over existing ambient conditions (e.g., a 5 dBA [A-weighted decibel] increase over ambient conditions) often results in a determination that construction noise impacts are significant, even for routine construction activities that are expected to occur in an urban environment. The increase in ambient level threshold is so low that it has the potential to show significant environmental impacts, even for activities such as a single day of construction or exterior remodeling of a single-family home in a residential area involving no unusual noise-producing equipment. As a result, a more appropriate construction noise threshold should be crafted in consideration that construction noise is temporary and periodic, and that while construction noise could result in human annoyance, it may not necessarily result in direct health impacts unless a certain absolute noise threshold is attained.

The following Motion was approved 6-0-0:

Whereas, the City of Los Angeles is planning to make major changes to the Construction Noise and Vibration Thresholds and Methodology for CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) analysis;
Whereas, we are concerned that the proposal is to weaken the protections from excessive noise for all areas of the city, including the much less developed hillside areas, on the argument that Los Angeles is an “urban environment” and that residents are “used to temporary construction noise;”
Whereas, the process has been rushed and has excluded meaningful public input;
Whereas, the City has developed a pattern and practice of rushing and keeping major projects such as this out of the public eye;
Whereas, the City’s technical advisory panel lacked independent scientific experts on health and annoyance;
Whereas, the fundamental rationale for the update (to make CEQA case approval easier for the City) is flawed and unsupported by evidence;
Whereas, daytime noise limits are essential to protect all people, including shift workers;
Whereas, lower income and vulnerable communities typically live in older housing which is much less resistant to external noise than new and recently constructed housing, thus the City’s reliance on existing, newer building codes to mitigate noise is discriminatory because these more recent codes only apply to newer and more recent construction (of which approximately 90% is market rate housing) and not to those who live in older housing that is not nearly as insulated against external noise as newer buildings;
Whereas, the City and State have articulated standards for the protection of biological diversity and wildlife, the evaluation of noise impacts on wildlife, as well as domestic pets, is not included and should be, and
Whereas, the use of Leq as a measurement standard hides disturbing noise levels because it averages out the total noise levels during an entire day so there may be extremely high noise levels that are disturbing for a short period of time, but if it is reasonably quiet the rest of the day, then the Leq number can be low;
Whereas, the carefully researched letter of opposition submitted by the Bel Air/ Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council is incorporated herein by reference; and
Whereas, the entire process is based on faulty logic about current environmental conditions and human adaptation to them, is derived from a highly questionable process of having developer’s consultants guide the revision, and is plagued by a lack of reference to peer-reviewed scientific literature.
Therefore Be It Resolved, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council urgently requests that the City’s current draft of the CEQA Thresholds Related to Construction Noise and Vibration changes be withdrawn and the process started again with a citizen advisory panel and a technical advisory panel that is free from financial conflicts of interest.

B. Historic Resources

CEQA requires analysis of impacts to historical resources and defines historical resources as those listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), those designated locally, and those that the City elects to treat as historical resources based on substantial evidence that they meet federal, state, or local listing criteria. Historical resources may include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and historic districts. Regulating historical resources falls within the jurisdiction of several levels of government: the framework for the identification of historical resources is established at the federal level, while the documentation and protection of such resources are often undertaken by state and local governments--continued

12) 3733 Emily St (DIR-2023-3160-CDP-MEL-HCA) – The following motion was approved 4-0-1:

The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council supports the ADU project at 3733 Emily St.

- 13) **Zoning Update/Zoning Story Map – need comments on Zoning Story Map**--continued
<https://planning.lacity.org/plans-policies/san-pedro-zoning-code-update>
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/0d79e4db0e8e47769baefb98d6c4aacb>
- 14) **AB 2097** – placeholder
- 15) **Redevelopment Plan Procedures Reinstatement Ordinance** – placeholder
- 16) **West Harbor Supplemental DEIR**, continued
- 17) Any final public comment on non-agenda items
- 18) The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 pm