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December 6, 2013

The Honorable Michael N. Feuer  
City Attorney  
City Hall East, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
200 North Main Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-4131

Attention: Kenneth Fong  
Deputy City Attorney

**RE: River Improvement Overlay (RIO) District  
Council File No: 12-0096-SI (not transmitted)  
CPC File Nos: 2008-3125-CA (not transmitted)**

Dear Mr. Feuer:

Transmitted is the proposed draft ordinance prepared by your office that amends the Los Angeles Municipal Code to enable the establishment of and set forth the framework for River Improvement Overlay Districts and the preparation of River Design Standards to enable the City to facilitate appropriate development in designated areas adjacent to the City's waterways.

The language contained in this draft ordinance is substantially the same as that approved by the City Planning Commission on February 9, 2012 and the special joint meeting of the Ad Hoc River Committee and Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM) on February 27, 2012. This letter contains the required findings regarding the ordinance.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

The proposed ordinance is generally exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and City guidelines for the implementation thereof pursuant to Article II, Section 2, Subsection (m) of the City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines. The enactment of the proposed ordinance establishes rules and procedures for the adoption of future waterway-specific RIO Districts.

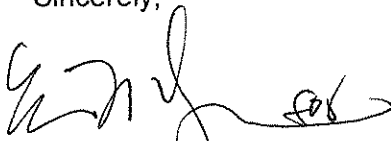
**FINDINGS**

1. In accordance with Charter Section 556, the proposed ordinance is in substantial conformance with the purposes, intent and provisions of the General Plan. The proposed ordinance will positively contribute to the ecological dimension that is based on the improvement of water quality and supply and provision of ecological corridors for birds and wildlife as defined in Chapter 6 of the Open Space and Conservation Element; and will promote effective and efficient approaches to reducing stormwater runoff and protecting water quality as defined in Objective 9.6 of Chapter 9 of the Framework Element of the General Plan; and
2. in accordance with Charter Section 558 (b)(2), the proposed ordinance will be in conformity with the public necessity, convenience, general welfare, and good zoning practice in that it will contribute toward protecting the City's natural settings from the effects of the encroachment of urban development as defined in Objective 6.1 of Chapter 6 of the Framework Element of the General Plan; and will protect and enhance the diversity and sustainability of the natural ecologies of the Santa Monica and San Pedro bays by enabling a RIO district that will require future developments to provide watershed protection and revitalization measures in accordance with the City's Conservation Element of the General Plan; and
3. in accordance with Charter Section 558 (b)(2), the proposed ordinance will have no adverse effect upon the General Plan, specific plans, or any other plans being created by the Department of City Planning because the proposed ordinance is consistent with the General Plan and carries out the General Plan goals, policies and objectives discussed above.

#### **CHARTER SECTION 559**

For the foregoing reasons and as provided under the authority of Charter Section 559 and City Plan Case No. 13505-A, I find that my action conforms with all applicable portions of the General Plan and with the January 12, 2012 action of the City Planning Commission, and I therefore approve this ordinance (attached) and recommend that it be adopted by the City Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Logrande", written over a horizontal line.

MICHAEL J LOGRANDE  
Director of Planning

Attachment