

My name is Sherri Akers – I have served as Co-Chair of the Mar Vista Community Council Green Committee since 2009, am founder and Co-Chair of the MVCC Aging in Place Committee and am now a Mar Vista Community Council (MVCC) At Large Director. The [MVCC issued a motion](#) supporting the legalization of beekeeping in R1 zones. Today I would like to add my voice as a private citizen.

MVCC collaborated on the [original feasibility study on legalizing urban beekeeping](#). Over two years, we studied the issue closely and did a tremendous amount of community outreach and conducted an on line survey of our stakeholders. Our community has overwhelmingly shown support for this motion.

Not only is our community not alarmed that we might have home beekeepers, we actually feel much safer. The greater concern is feral bee hives and having experienced beekeepers in our community has been a huge bonus. Many of my neighbors have used the [Honeylove hot line](#) to have feral hives discovered on their property safely moved. Prior to the efforts to educate the community, these bees would have been gassed and killed after a call to the city.

Thank you so much for your consideration on this urgently needed change in our laws. I look forward to joining major cities like Seattle, New York, Chicago, Denver and Santa Monica as we take this step to protect and nurture the pollinators that are so desperately needed to protect our planet and our food supply.

With sincere appreciation,

Sherri Akers



November 30, 2011

**Mar Vista  
Community Council**

P.O. Box 66871  
Mar Vista, CA 90066

**Board of Directors  
2011-2012**

**Chair**

Albert Olson  
[albert@marvista.org](mailto:albert@marvista.org)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair**

Sharon Commins  
[smcommins@marvista.org](mailto:smcommins@marvista.org)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair**

Bill Koontz  
[billk@marvista.org](mailto:billk@marvista.org)

**Secretary**

Laura Bodensteiner  
[laura@marvista.org](mailto:laura@marvista.org)

**Treasurer**

Alex Thompson  
[alex@marvista.org](mailto:alex@marvista.org)

**Zone Directors**

**Zone 1**

Babak Nahid

**Zone 2**

Bill Koontz

**Zone 3**

Kate Anderson

**Zone 4**

Tara Mulski

**Zone 5**

Maritza Przekop

**Zone 6**

Marilyn Marble

**At-Large Directors**

Laura Bodensteiner  
Sharon Commins  
Geoffrey Forgione  
Albert Olson  
Chuck Ray  
Bill Scheduling

**Community Director**

Alex Thompson



Certified Neighborhood Council  
August 13, 2002

To Whom it may Concern:

The Mar Vista Community Council recently helped conduct an Urban Beekeeping Feasibility Study.

The Study concludes that there is a strong community interest in supporting beekeeping efforts and that doing so would result in positive changes that permit the healthy growth of honey bee colonies and increase the production and quality of fruits, vegetables and flowers in Mar Vista's organic home gardens while providing a community service as a resource for the removal of feral (wild) hives.

Research indicates that such a program would be cost neutral to the city of LA.

The MVCC Board therefore recommends the implementation of a Beekeeping Pilot Program in to test safety and develop best practices for future expansion.

We urge the City of LA to adopt a policy that includes conditions relating to maintenance, location, registration and notification to assure for the safety of all residents which may result in the continued preservation of quality of life and preservation of single-family residential districts.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sharon Commins,  
Acting Chair  
Mar Vista Community Council

# FEASIBILITY STUDY

## URBAN BEEKEEPING IN MAR VISTA

MVCC GREEN COMMITTEE  
MVCC COMMUNITY OUTREACH

OCTOBER 26, 2011



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title	Page
Acknowledgments	3
Executive Summary	4
Why a feasibility study of beekeeping in Mar Vista?	5
Feasibility Study Boundaries Map	6
Background, MVCC Committees, Outreach Program	7
Land Use Regulations	8
Outreach Calendar of Events	9
Outreach Event Photos	10-11
MVCC Beekeeping Survey Responses and Analysis	12-13
MVCC Beekeeping Survey Map	14
MVCC Beekeeping Survey	15
Selected Survey Responses (Yes, No, Unsure)	16-17
Definition of Terms	18
City Comparison Matrix	19
Findings	20-21
Proposed Procedure	22
Motion	23
LA County Apiary Registration	24-25
Sample Form (Community Planning Referral Form)	26-27

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

Special thanks to Chelsea and Rob McFarland for their commitment and dedication in support of this program.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mar Vista Community Council at its regular meeting on June 14, 2011 voted to approve the preparation of a Feasibility Study for beekeeping in Mar Vista. The Feasibility Study was intended to evaluate the applicability of a recently adopted beekeeping ordinance by the City of Santa Monica to Mar Vista; and if the adoption of this policy supported the Green Committee's goal of creating a more sustainable community. The Feasibility Study included a wide outreach program to facilitate the exchange of information about discovering levels of interest by stakeholders, facilitate presentations from experts to address stakeholders concerns and provide education for the various beekeeping practices in an urbanized setting.

During the four-month process, presentations were made to update on the progress of the Feasibility Study, and receive feedback at three standing MVCC committees (Green Committee, Community Outreach and PLUM) with a combined attendance of approximately 62 stakeholders. Additionally, an initial one-day event was scheduled at the Mar Vista Farmer's Market to test interest in the community-at-large which resulted on the signatures of 511 participants in support of legalizing beekeeping in Mar Vista. Since it was difficult to ascertain true stakeholder's status or find levels or interest and more in-depth reporting of nature of concerns an on-line survey was made available at the MVCC website. 213 responses were tabulated from Aug. 20, 2011 to Oct. 24, 2011.

The committee agreed to include a copy of the Survey in the MVCC Quarterly Newsletter to be hand delivered to 10,000 households within the boundaries of MVCC resulting in 20 responses received by MVCC Chair as a result of the newsletter survey by mid October 2011. An online petition was set up in Change.org, which drew 1,854 additional positive responses. A monthly community event was held each month which included a free-screening of the film "the Vanishing of the Bees" at the local library, two green tent demonstrations showing beekeeping equipment at the Mar Vista Farmer's Market, a Honey Tasting event at a local coffee shop in South Mar Vista, and a booth at the Fall Festival an MVCC sponsored event at Mar Vista Park which resulted on the direct interaction with stakeholders and additional signatures for a combined total of 3,040.

The committee also reviewed over 75 articles on beekeeping; best practices, planning articles on Urban Agriculture, Law articles as it relates to bees, health articles associated with bee stings, articles about Africanized bees, state, county and city beekeeping regulations to help in the evaluation of the recommendations and conclusions of the Beekeeping Feasibility Study.

The Feasibility Study concludes that: 1) Supporting beekeeping efforts may result in positive changes that permit the healthy growth of honey bee colonies, increase the production and quality of fruits, vegetables and flowers in Mar Vista's organic home gardens, consistent with the objectives of the Green Committee; 2.) Urban Beekeeping may provide nutritional and affordable options for local grown honey bee by-products such as honey and wax that could result on training and development of a new local industry; 3.) Improve standard practices for removal of feral (wild) hives which is deficient and wasteful of natural resources that may have a positive result in our local environment; 4.) Assure that the adoption of future policies must also include conditions relating to maintenance, location, registration and notification to assure for the safety of all Mar Vista Stakeholders which may result in the continued preservation of quality of life and preservation of single-family residential districts.

## **WHY A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF BEEKEEPING IN MAR VISTA?**

Beekeeping for commercial or non-commercial uses is not permitted in Residential zones in any part of the City of Los Angeles including Mar Vista. It has been recently permitted in other cities in California including the City of Santa Monica. Various residents noted that bees are already in the gardens surrounding Mar Vista and wanted to know the steps to legalize beekeeping in Mar Vista's residential districts such as it is permitted in Santa Monica. It was also noted that the readily available solution to unwanted bees was extermination and perhaps education about rescuing bees was also important.

The Green Committee noted that beekeeping may benefit stakeholders by having access to by-products such as, honey and beeswax for candle making as well as helping reestablish a healthier honey bee population that is compatible with on-going organic gardening in the area.

The Feasibility Study was proposed on May 19, 2011 as a collaborative effort between the MVCC Green Committee, furthering the goals of creating a healthier, more sustainable community and the Outreach Committee to direct an outreach effort to test the level of interest of residential stakeholders in Mar Vista and learn about the complex subject of urban beekeeping.

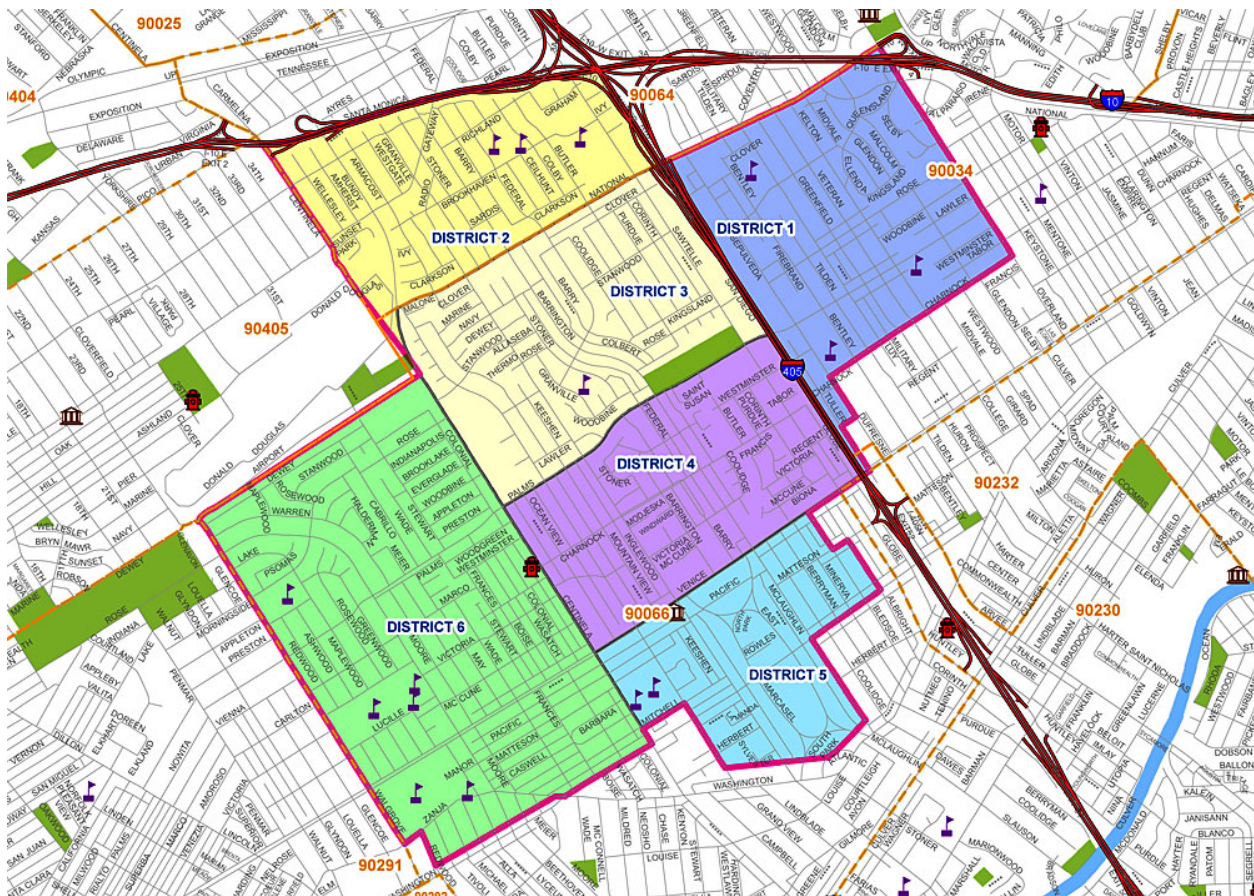
The Feasibility Study objectives was to look at opportunities and threats in establishing a pilot program within the MVCC Boundaries that would allow accessory beekeeping uses in single-family residential districts; include education about bee's behavior, beekeeping best practices, health information related to bee stings, and review the regulatory process adopted at other cities.

The study would also make use of innovative public participation tools to measure community interest and concerns such as: surveys, petitions, and blogs to solicit comments and opinions from stakeholders.

Both committee's could organize regular presentations to increase awareness and educations including a screening of the documentary film "Vanishing of the Bees", presentations by urban beekeeping organizations, presentations by experts on the different fields from medicine to gardening, and invite guests from other municipalities that can respond to questions about beekeeping regulations and coordinate with other standing committees such as Planning and Land Use, Traffic and Infrastructure and Education and Cultural Committees.

The Feasibility Report will also list a response to questions received from stakeholders, list publications about health risks associated with the keeping of bees and lastly provide recommendations as to possible actions by the MVCC. The Feasibility Study goals are to uncover the different elements that would prevent the implementation of this program or the necessary components that could make it a successful program.

# FEASIBILITY STUDY BOUNDARIES





## **BACKGROUND**

In response to raising concerns about a recent documentary film: “Vanishing of the Bees” which reported diminishing honey bee populations worldwide attributed to the Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) and the desire to follow a movement of bee keeping in urban environments would grow healthier communities and bee populations. Mar Vista residents have formed a Green Committee which brings topics of sustainability including growing organic, native and drought tolerant gardens with a wider variety of flowers, fruits and vegetables that could be supportive of beekeeping.

## **MVCC COMMITTEES**

A Feasibility Study was initiated by the Green Committee on May 19, 2011 as a collaborative effort between the Green and Outreach committees to test the level of interest of stakeholders, assure that the implementation of the program would be compatible with sustainable goals for Mar Vista, uncover the different elements that could prevent the implementation of a pilot program and to present a report that identifies different requirements that could be adopted in tailoring future ordinances. The MVCC Board approved the initiation of the Feasibility Study at its regular meeting on June 14, 2011.

## **OUTREACH PROGRAM**

The Community Outreach Program for the Feasibility Study main task was to raise awareness and find innovative ways to engage stakeholders. As noted in the executive summary the committee tried different tools to measure and evaluate responses. It was found that the most valuable tool in shaping the recommendations was the range of responses provided in the survey. The report includes a map with stakeholder’s responses.

After almost six-months from the original idea to initiate a pilot program for beekeeping in Mar Vista, we feel confident to have reached a high level of awareness within the district about a proposed beekeeping pilot program; we also feel comfortable to have uncovered a range of attitudes towards beekeeping including a number of legitimate concerns relating to an increased bee presence and potential increase to bee stings.

## LAND USE REGULATIONS

Beekeeping for commercial or non-commercial uses is not permitted in Residential zones in any part of the City of Los Angeles including Mar Vista. It has been recently permitted in other cities in California including the City of Santa Monica. Various residents noted that bees are already in the gardens surrounding Mar Vista and wanted to allow bee keeping as an accessory use receiving benefits from bee products such as flower pollination, honey and bee wax for candle making as well as help reestablish a healthier honey bee population that is compatible with on-going organic gardening in the area.

The committee started out by reviewing the City of Santa Monica's ordinance, adopted in January 10, 2010 to test its applicability. Regulations from 15 other municipalities were reviewed and seven cities were selected from this group for a more in depth comparison: Chicago, Denver, New York, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Santa Monica and Seattle. The cities also represented urbanized centers, similar in scale to the City of Los Angeles with residential districts and zoning and lot area regulations similar to what exists in the Mar Vista community area. Cities were also selected for their innovative sustainable policies which are important factors to the Mar Vista community and part of the Green Committee Goals in sponsoring the study. Two cities were selected from the State of California to understand the regulatory process as these may overlap the State regulations.

Table I on page 8, provides a summary of the key elements and allows a simple comparison between the language of the different regulations. Additionally, we spoke with planners, and local urban beekeeper organizations to find out any major issues that could present a liability to our community in adopting a pilot program. We found no such evidence.

Based on the reporting and direct conversations with staff from seven different municipalities that allow beekeeping in residential districts, it was concluded that municipalities didn't experience an increase or reporting of bee sting accidents.

In the County of Los Angeles, apiaries are regulated under the Jurisdiction of the Department of Agricultural Commissioner Weight and Measures. Mr. Ariel Verayo is assigned to inspection and registration of beehives in the County of Los Angeles. He noted that abatement of hives for the year was typical than other years about 197. However he explained that it did not include beekeepers. The county's permitting system is in addition to the local regulations such as in the case of the City of Santa Monica or the City of Long Beach. The registration fees are \$10.00.

## OUTREACH

### Mar Vista Honeybee Feasibility Study Calendar

5/19/2011	Presentation to Mar Vista Green Committee to propose beekeeping feasibility study for a pilot program - Passed Unanimously
6/14/2011	Presentation to the Mar Vista Community Council - Passed Unanimously
6/16/2011	Mar Vista Green Committee Meeting
6/22/2011	Launched online petition through Change.org
6/23/2011	Mar Vista Feasibility Study Meeting @ Venice Grind
7/3/2011	Mar Vista Farmers Market outreach event (green booth) - 511 signatures
7/12/2011	Mar Vista Community Council Meeting
7/21/2011	Mar Vista Green Committee Meeting
7/23/2011	Hosted a public screening of Vanishing of the bees at W.B. Fontenot Gallery
7/27/2011	Mar Vista Outreach Committee Meeting
7/31/2011	Mar Vista Farmers Market - outreach (MVCC Green Booth)
8/9/2011	Mar Vista Community Council Meeting
9/7/2011	YMCA Outreach & Education Lecture: Culver City / Palms
9/10/2011	Honey Tasting Outreach Event: Rumor Mill Café - 1st Place = Harry's Honey
9/12/2011	KPCC Interview about Mar Vista Honey Bee Initiative
9/13/2011	Mar Vista Community Council Meeting
9/15/2011	Mar Vista Green Committee Meeting
9/17/2011	Interviewed by USC Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism
8/13/2011	Wax Symposium Community Outreach Event
8/18/2011	Mar Vista Green Committee Meeting: Presentation from County Inspector
8/20/2011	National Honeybee Awareness Day - Yellow Carpet Event / Film Screening Over 100 people (including 70 who stayed through the film screening)
8/24/2011	Mar Vista Outreach Committee Meeting: Medical Presentation
9/18/2011	Mar Vista Farmer's Market Outreach
9/20/2011	Mar Vista PLUM Committee Meeting
9/27/2011	Windward School Outreach: Garden Club
9/28/2011	Mar Vista Outreach Committee Meeting
10/2/2011	Mar Vista Farmer's Market Outreach
10/2/2011	Public Example: Bledsoe Water Meter Rescue & Santa Monica Adoption
10/8/2011	Pollination Party at the Learning Garden with David King
10/11/2011	Mar Vista Community Council Meeting
10/15/2011	Mar Vista Fall Festival Outreach
10/18/2011	Mar Vista PLUM Committee Meeting
10/22/2011	Vanishing of the Bees Screening: Park La Brea
10/23/2011	Mar Vista Green Committee Meeting - Presentation of Feasibility Study
10/25/2011	Wildwood School Outreach
10/26/2011	Cal Poly Pomona Interview
10/29/2011	Girl Scouts 100 Year Anniversary: LA convention center
10/30/2011	LA Green Festival - LA Convention Center - Presentation at 4pm
11/5/2011	LMU Outreach: Vanishing of the Bees Screening

### OUTREACH EVENT PHOTOS



Mar Vista Farmer's Market – "The GREEN Tent" Outreach Event



Mar Vista Fall Festival – October 15, 2011- HoneyLove Outreach Booth



**HoneyLove Outreach Event: Honey Tasting at Rumor Mill Café**



**08/20/11 - Chelsea McFarland, Sherri Akers (MVCC Green Committee), Bill Rosendahl (Los Angeles City Council: District 11), Rob McFarland at Mar Vista Branch Library for National Honey Bee Awareness Day Event**

## **SURVEY RESPONSES AND ANALYSIS**

As noted in the Executive Summary, presentations were made to update on the progress of the Feasibility Study, and receive feedback at three standing MVCC committees (Green Committee, Community Outreach and PLUM). Since it was difficult to ascertain true stakeholder's status or find levels or interest and more in-depth reporting of nature of concerns an on-line survey was made available at the MVCC website. A sample of the survey is included in Page 9.

212 responses from MVCC Stakeholders were tabulated from August 20, 2011 to October 24, 2011 as summarized in Page 10.

## **SURVEY RESPONSES**

TOTAL = 213 (MVCC Stakeholder Responses)

### **MVCC Yes = 81.2% (173)**

Survey Question: I support the project, but do not want to participate = 51% of Yes (89)

Survey Question: I would like to participate in the project as a beekeeper = 30% of Yes (51)

Survey Question: I would like to participate in other ways (volunteer, donate etc.) = 19% of Yes (32)

Survey Question: I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista = 0% of Yes (1)

### **MVCC No = 13.6% (29)**

Survey Question: I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista = 100% of No (29)

### **MVCC Not Sure = 5.2% (11)**

Survey Question: I support the project, but do not want to participate = 73% of Not Sure (8)

Survey Question: I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista = 18% of Not Sure (2)

Survey Question: I would like to participate in other ways (volunteer, donate etc.) = 9% of Not Sure (1)

In tabulating the Survey responses for the final report, we chose to include only one answer per household. We also dismissed clear duplication or errors mentioned by the survey respondent. There were a few instances (less than 15) that responses noted the same household, or did not listed a complete address in those cases we chose not to include the responses in the final report.

As noted below a total of 12 responses contained incomplete addresses or double household responses and were not included in the map or final results

Note: exact addresses available from MVCC Chair, and intentionally left out for study purposes.

Results: 6- yes, 1- not sure, and 4-no  
 3600 block of Mountain View Ave - yes  
 3700 block of Meier - yes  
 3700 block of Corinth Ave - yes  
 3600 block of Barrington Avenue - yes  
 3400 block of federal Ave - yes  
 200 block of Coolidge Ave - yes  
 11000 block of Kingsland Street - yes  
 11000 – block no address: not sure  
 11000 – block no address: no  
 3300 block Inglewood Blvd - no  
 3300 block Inglewood Blvd - no  
 3200 block Stoner Ave. – no

Additionally, 49 responses listed addresses outside of MVCC boundaries and for the purpose of the feasibility report those responses were not mapped. A copy of the entire Survey is available upon request from the MVCC Chair.

**49 Non-MVCC Responses:**

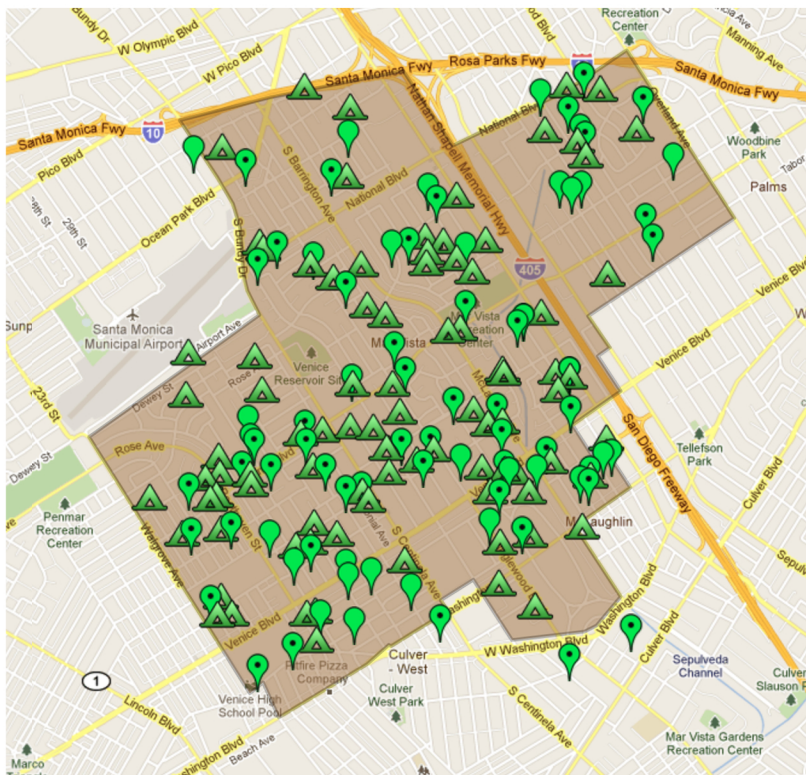
<b>Yes =</b>	85.7%	(42) of Non-MVCC
<b>No =</b>	6.1%	(3) of Non-MVCC
<b>Not Sure =</b>	8.2%	(4) of Non-MVCC

## **MAPPING OF SURVEY RESPONSES**

A map was developed to show MVCC Stakeholder responses to questions 1 and 2 as responded in the positive; a second map was developed to show unsure or negative responses to both questions. The positive responses represented in green were 81.1%; the negative responses represented in red were 13.7%; and “not sure” responses represented in yellow were 5.2%. Mapping included each response combination for a total of six combinations.

# MVCC Stakeholder Survey: Urban Beekeeping Pilot Program

TOTAL = 213 (MVCC Stakeholder Responses)



**MVCC Yes = 81.2% (173)**

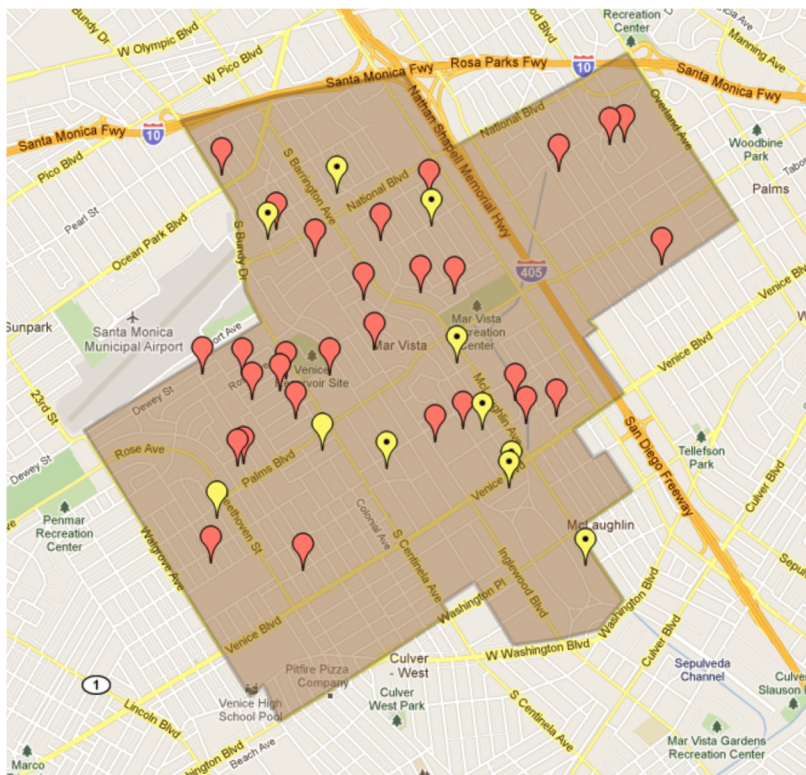
I support the project, but do not want to participate = 51% of Yes (89)

I would like to participate in the project as a beekeeper = 30% of Yes (51)

I would like to participate in other ways (volunteer, donate etc.) = 19% of Yes (32)

I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista = 0% of Yes (1)

- = Yes / I would like to participate in other ways (volunteer, donate etc.)
- = Yes / I would like to participate in the project as a beekeeper
- = Yes / I support the project, but do not want to participate



**MVCC No = 13.6% (29)**

I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista = 100% of No (29)

**MVCC Not Sure = 5.2% (11)**

I support the project, but do not want to participate = 73% of Not Sure (8)

I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista = 18% of Not Sure (2)

I would like to participate in other ways (volunteer, donate etc.) = 9% of Not Sure (1)

- = No / I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista
- = Not Sure / I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista
- = Not Sure / I support the project but do not want to participate



# MVCC Stakeholder Survey: Urban Beekeeping Pilot Program

Click [here](#) to learn more about the MVCC Urban Beekeeping Pilot Project Survey.

## Mar Vista Community Council Stakeholder Survey: Urban Beekeeping Pilot Program

The Mar Vista Community Council is considering a motion to support the creation of a pilot program by the City of L.A. that allows interested Mar Vista residents (in R1 zones) to keep up to two hives on their property. The purpose of this survey is to solicit stakeholder opinion regarding this proposal.

MVCC is considering joining other urban centers, from San Francisco to New York and most recently our neighbors in Santa Monica, in developing a permit process for urban beekeeping.

For additional information regarding the feasibility study and this survey please visit [www.marvista.org](http://www.marvista.org). Thank you for your participation.

Please Note:

- a. Survey responses are limited to one per person.
- b. Street address of respondent must be provided to be included in the results.

\* Required

**First Name \***

**Last Name \***

**Street Address/Apt. # \***

**City \***

**State \***

**Zip \***

**Email Address**

**1. Should Mar Vista legalize beekeeping in residential (R1) areas? \***

- 1a. Yes
- 1b. No
- 1c. Not sure

**2. Mar Vista is considering a beekeeping pilot project. \***

- 2a. I would like to participate in the project as a beekeeper.
- 2b. I would like to participate in other ways (volunteer, donate etc.).
- 2c. I support the project, but do not want to participate.
- 2d. I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista.

**Additional comments/questions**

200 characters max. You may also email longer responses to [info@marvista.org](mailto:info@marvista.org)

**4. Please check the appropriate box. \***

- 4a. I am a Mar Vista Community Council stakeholder ("individuals who live, work, or own property within the stated boundaries of the MVCC and those who declare a stake in the MVCC and affirm a factual basis for it.")
- 4b. I am a resident of the City of Los Angeles, but not an MVCC stakeholder.
- 4c. I am not a resident of the City of Los Angeles.

Submit

**SELECTED YES SURVEY RESPONSES**

"Thank you so much - this is an amazing project, and so important to the continued environmental leadership that Mar Vista so beautifully embraces!"

"I have kept keep bees in the past, not now, and have built and maintained my own hives using both conventional and top bar methods. I would enjoy working with the community on this pilot project including keeping a legal hive and assisting others in the construction or assembly of hives for this project. I have a half acre lot in Mar Vista with plenty of garden space and lot line clearance to adjoining properties and houses that would qualify under existing L.A. county requirements. Sign me up."

"What a great idea! I had no idea that bee-keeping was illegal. My neighbor was also signed up to participate and we would be happy to work together."

"There is a naturally occurring colony behind my house that has been there for 2 years. I would love if this colony could be maintained in its natural state and I would be happy to do what is needed. thanks you"

"I support urban beekeeping, urban agriculture, and ocean friendly gardens."

"I am very excited that our community has taken this subject seriously. Thank you!"

"Bees are very important to the environment. I am in support of Bee Keeping in Mar Vista, especially if bee keepers are willing to control hives in unwanted locations."

"This is a GREAT idea. As a gardening hobbyist, I've noticed a dramatic decline in the presence of bees in my garden. This is alarming. I also think it is important for people to maintain a pesticide-free garden in order to protect the bees."

"As an organic vegetable gardener I would be thrilled to see more bees."

**SELECTED NO RESPONSES:**

"Let's study things like traffic issues that will benefit all."

"We've been plagued by bees in our home for years and have spent hundreds of dollars on this problem. The stress has been extreme."

"I have raccoon, possum, squirrel in my yard now. Why would I want to be stung by bees."

"I personally do everything to attract bees to my garden but feel that bee keeping should be in more remote areas. I have treated many children as a school nurse who are allergic to bees. What is one of these children lived next door to a person who wished to be a beekeeper. Also there would need to be a professional person who would care for the extraction of honey and general care for the hives. I am a member of Ocean View farms. Many people want to participate but do not understand the responsibilities and work of farming. I am afraid that this would be the same in beekeeping."

"My family and I are extremely against beekeeping in Mar Vista. There are many people who live here that are allergic to bee-stings, some to the point where it could kill them. Other, like my grown daughter, are very afraid of being stung. Secondly, this is a residential community, not an agricultural one. While I understand the necessity of bees in agriculture, the same is not true in a residential neighborhood. I have seen more bees in my neighborhood this year than in all my previous years living here. I have already been stung twice this year while just going for a walk."

## **SELECTED UNSURE RESPONSES**

"As much as I would like access to local honey I need to know the drawbacks of this project so that I can make an informed decision. Thank you."

"It would be important that would be beekeepers get sign off from immediate neighbors due to allergies, backyard enjoyment, etc. Other than that I like the idea."

"I'm not sure I would want a beehive next to my property as I care for a 4 year old grandson every day. I have a son who is allergic to bee venom that lives close by. Why not encourage bee friendly plants and flowers?"

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The feasibility report recommends that a notification to abutting residents is a pre-requisite for obtaining a clearance from the city to register with the county.

The feasibility report also recommends that we improve standard practices for removal of feral (wild) hives which is deficient and wasteful of natural resources.

It was not known at the end of the study exact figures of any cost benefits to the city as part of the adoption of the pilot program. However, the study recommends a nominal fee not to exceed \$150 to cover inspection costs as part of any future abatement order. The amount is similar to other inspection amounts charged by the city to recover inspection costs associated with similar pilot programs in the city.

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. "Bee" shall mean any stage of the common domestic honey bee, *Apis Mellifera* species.



2. "Requeen" means to replace a queen bee in a colony with a new queen.



3. "Hive" shall mean a structure for the housing of a bee colony.

Langstroth Hive



Top Bar Hive



## Urban Beekeeping - City Comparison Matrix

City	Type of property	Number of Hives	Registration / Permit Agency	Placement	Barrier	Prevent Swarming	Re queening	Water Source	Maintenance Materials	Definition of Nuisance	Penalties
<b>Chicago</b>	Single-Family Residential	5	Register with Illinois Department of Agriculture	rear portion of lot with 5' clearance from property line	6' barrier (vegetative barriers OK)				No storage of any beekkeeping equipment or materials not in use		
<b>Denver</b>	Single-Family Residential	2								aggressive or objectionable bee behaviors; hive placement or bee movement that interferes with pedestrian traffic or persons residing on or adjacent to the hive premises; overcrowded; deceased or abandoned hives.	
<b>New York</b>	Single-Family Residential		File notice with Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and complete State Survey	locating hives where movement of bees does not become an animal nuisance.	(see placement)	(see nuisance)	-	Provide constant and adequate water source	-		-
<b>Salt Lake City</b>	Residential	5 (10 if property is larger than 1/2 acre)	Register with Department of Agriculture and Food	Side yard or rear yard - Hive placed 5 feet from any property line and 6 inches above the ground	6' barrier if within 15 feet of property line			Provide water between March 1st and October 31st	Stored in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure		Civil notice of violation in lieu of a misdemeanor citation
<b>San Francisco</b>	Single-Family Residential	40	\$10 Registration required each year							Exhibit defensive or objectionable behavior; interfere with the normal use of neighboring properties; swarming; do not conform to code; abandoned hives.	GUILTY of an infraction= fined no more than \$250, guilty of a misdemeanor= \$1,000, no more than 6 months in county jail...
<b>Santa Monica</b>	Single-Family Residential	2	City's Animal Control Office	5 feet from property lines or 8 feet above adjacent ground level - hive entrance facing away from or parallel to the nearest property line(s)	six-foot barrier (vegetative ok)	Provide adequate living-space to prevent swarming	Every 2 years	provided at all times on the property where the bees are kept	Stored in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure		
<b>Seattle</b>	Residential, Multi-Family	4+	Register with the State Department of Agriculture each year	25 feet from any property line except when situated 8 feet high or when situated less than 8 feet above the adjacent existing lot grade and behind a solid fence or hedge 6 feet high parallel to any property line within 25 feet of a hive and extending at least 20 feet beyond the hive in both directions.	(see placement)	Adequate living-space required to prevent overcrowding or swarming	Following any swarming or aggressive behavior	-	-	Bees living in trees, buildings, or any other space except in movable-frame hives; abandoned colonies; or diseased bees	Not to exceed \$100.00

## JUSTIFICATION/FINDINGS

1. There is a greater ratio of open space in single-family residentially zoned lots than in multi-family residentially zoned lots within the boundaries of the Mar Vista Feasibility Study area. Therefore, in order to create the best possible conditions for beekeeping to thrive in the Mar Vista area, beekeeping for the Mar Vista pilot program is recommended to be limited to R1 zones.
2. Other municipalities such as Chicago, Denver, New York, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Santa Monica, and Seattle have overwhelmingly chosen the same regulations. Therefore, condition A1 maintains the same regulations as used in the seven model ordinances.
3. In conversations with Mar Vista Farmer's Market vendor Harry Stein owner of "Harry's Honey" regarding the local gardening practices and available conditions in Mar Vista for bees, he recommended that allowing at least two hives per lot would result in healthier beekeeping practices than limiting to just one.

According to Ariel Verayo's presentation to the Mar Vista Community Council Green Committee on August 18, 2011, the County of Los Angeles requires access to beehives in order to conduct regular inspections. Therefore, condition A3, A4 are intended to facilitate county's inspection process.

4. Of the seven municipalities chosen for comparison for Mar Vista's Beekeeping Pilot Program, approximately half require registration with the State Department of Agriculture and the other half with County or Local Municipalities. Therefore, condition A5 recommends all new beekeepers to register with the County of Los Angeles Department of Agricultural Commissioner / Weights and Measures with a City of Los Angeles Planning Department Land Use sign off for their accessory use.
5. The city of Los Angeles Municipal Code establishes 5-foot side-yards for single-family dwellings. The proposed location of the hives shall be consistent with the same regulations as accessory structures. Similarly, the city of Santa Monica, and the city of Salt Lake City have placed the same requirements. Therefore, condition B1 is intended to be consistent with existing lot area regulations for R1 area districts.
6. The city of Santa Monica has established minimum requirements for location, orientation and screening of hives in order to minimize impact to adjoining properties. Adopting similar regulations in locating beehives with respect to adjoining properties seems appropriate to minimize impacts to neighbors. Therefore condition B1, B2, and B3 are intended to be compatible with existing lot area regulations for R1 area districts within Mar Vista Community Council boundaries.

7. An extensive outreach program was completed at a variety of events designed to raise awareness and solicit stakeholder's opinions regarding urban beekeeping in Mar Vista. As part of the feasibility study outreach component completed by HoneyLove.org during a 6 month period, 511 petitions were signed during the Mar Vista Farmer's Market on July 3, 2011 in supporting the legalization of urban beekeeping in Mar Vista; additionally, 1,762 online petitions from local, national, and international areas were received through change.org in support of legalizing urban beekeeping in Mar Vista; 347 additional signatures were obtained in support of legalization of urban beekeeping in Mar Vista from stakeholders at various events; finally, 212 people responded to the MVCC Stakeholder's Beekeeping Survey distributed online and to every household within the Mar Vista Community Council boundaries for a combined total of 2,886 signatures.
8. Several health concerns were expressed as part of the Mar Vista Beekeeping Survey in several areas of Mar Vista. 29 of the survey respondents and 3 of community stakeholders expressed their opposition to the implementation of the pilot program based on disinterest in the pilot program, risk associated with allergic reactions to beestings, or potential for beekeepers not adhering to regulations. Of the 212 stakeholders, 29 of the 212 survey respondents represent approximately 13.7% of the overall outreach.
9. Dr. Roberta Kato, MD, Pediatric Pulmonologist made a presentation to the MVCC Community Outreach Committee on August 24, 2011 and responded to stakeholder concerns associated with beestings and risks to small children.
10. The city of Seattle Municipal Code, Section 10.36.010 Maintenance and registration of colonies, Item 3 states: "Colonies shall be re-queened following any swarming or aggressive behavior." The city of Santa Monica's regulations require a re-queening every two years, which is based rather on a commercial application than a residential scale. Therefore, the city of Seattle's ordinance is more compatible with residential application as it follows a natural progression of the colony's cycle instead of imposing commercial practices for productivity. Thus, condition C2 reflects the city of Seattle's ordinance contrary to the adopted regulations by the city of Santa Monica.
11. During Inspector Ariel Verayo's presentation he noted that it was critical to place a water source prior to the establishment of the beehives. Therefore condition C3 addresses that recommendation. (Ariel Verayo, Inspector III – Apiary/AHB/HazMat Program, County of Los Angeles, Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures)

## REQUIREMENTS

### A) General Requirements

1. Hives may only be maintained on single-family residential property.
2. No more than two hives may be maintained on any single-family residential property.
3. All bee colonies shall be kept in inspectable hives consisting of moveable frames and combs.
4. Hives must be kept in sound and usable condition at all times.
5. Any person intending to maintain any bee hive on any single-family residential property within the City must first register with the County of Los Angeles.

### B) Hive Placement Requirements

1. Hives shall be located at least five feet from all property lines.
2. Hive entrances shall face away from or parallel to the nearest property line(s).
3. Hives must either be screened so that the bees must fly over a six-foot barrier, which may be vegetative, before leaving the property, or be placed at least eight-feet above the adjacent ground level.
4. Hives must be limited to single-family residential areas

### C) Hive Management Requirements

1. Hives shall be continually managed to provide adequate living-space for their resident bees to prevent swarming.
2. Colonies shall be re-queened following any swarming or aggressive behavior.
3. A water source for bees shall be provided before establishing a new hive and at all times on the property where the bees are kept to discourage bee visitation at swimming pools, hose bibs and other water sources on adjacent public or private property.
4. Hive maintenance materials or equipment must be stored in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure.

**D) Nuisance** – bees or hives shall be considered a public nuisance when any of the following occurs:

1. Colonies of bees exhibit defensive or objectionable behavior, or interfere with the normal use of neighboring properties.
2. Colonies of bees swarm.
3. Bees or hives do not conform to this code.
4. Hives become abandoned by resident bees or by the owner.



## Motion to Support Urban Beekeeping in Los Angeles

The Mar Vista Community Council at its regular meeting on June 14, 2011 voted to approve the preparation of a Feasibility Study to evaluate the applicability of a recently adopted beekeeping ordinance by the City of Santa Monica to Mar Vista; and if the adoption of this policy supported the Green Committee's goal of creating a more sustainable community.

During the four month process –

- Presentations were made to three standing MVCC committees (Green Committee, Community Outreach and PLUM) with a combined attendance of approximately 62 stake holders.
- Outreach was conducted at the Mar Vista Farmer's Market resulting in 511 signatures in support of legalizing beekeeping in Mar Vista in one day.
- An on-line survey was made available at the MVCC website. 275 responses were tabulated from July 24, 2011 to October 2011 with 81% in favor of urban beekeeping.
- Information was published in the MVCC Quarterly Newsletter and hand delivered to 15,000 households inviting participation in the survey which added 22 mail in responses
- An online petition was set up in Change.org which also drew 1,767 responses in support of urban beekeeping
- Monthly community outreach events included a free-screening of the film "the Vanishing of the Bees", two green tent demonstrations at the Mar Vista Farmer's Market in July and September, a Honey Tasting event at a local coffee shop in South Mar Vista in August, and a booth at the Fall Festival an MVCC sponsored event at Mar Vista Park which resulted on the direct interaction with stakeholders and 600 additional signatures.
- Outreach was also done in numerous Mar Vista schools.

The committee reviewed over 150 articles on beekeeping, best practices, planning articles on Urban Agriculture, State, County and city beekeeping regulations to help in the evaluation of the recommendations and conclusions of the Beekeeping Feasibility Study. The committee also spoke to program directors in numerous cities where programs are in place.

The Feasibility Study concludes that there is a strong community interest in supporting beekeeping efforts and that doing so would result in positive changes that permit the healthy growth of honey bee colonies and increase the production and quality of fruits, vegetables and flowers in Mar Vista's organic home gardens while providing a community service as a resource for the removal of feral (wild) hives. Research indicates that such a program would be cost neutral to the city of LA.

**The MVCC Board therefore recommends the implementation of a Beekeeping Pilot Program in to test safety and develop best practices for future expansion. We urge the City of LA to adopt a policy that includes conditions relating to maintenance, location, registration and notification to assure for the safety of all residents which may result in the continued preservation of quality of life and preservation of single-family residential districts.**



**Kurt E. Floren**  
 Agricultural Commissioner  
 Director of Weights and Measures

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

*Department of  
 Agricultural Commissioner/  
 Weights and Measures*

12300 Lower Azusa Road  
 Arcadia, California 91006-5872  
<http://acwm.lacounty.gov>



**Richard K. Iizuka**  
 Chief Deputy

**APIARY REGISTRATION - 2011**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP CODE** \_\_\_\_\_

**BRAND#** \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Beekeeper: In accordance with Section 29040 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, please register your apiary with us when it is in Los Angeles County. Migratory beekeepers should list the months active in the county.

**I NO LONGER HAVE BEES IN THE COUNTY**  
**Please Explain:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**I SOLD MY BEES TO:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

List the number of hives and location of each apiary on this form. Attach check or money order for required registration fee and return to the above address. Checks should be payable to:  
**L.A. CO. AG. COMM.**

**\*\* THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR 2011 IS \$10.00 \*\***

Number of Colonies	<b>LOCATION OF APIARIES IN THIS COUNTY</b> Describe location so it can be plotted on county map using roads, canals, intersections, landmarks, and ranch names, giving directions, distance, and side of road; or show Quarter Section, Section, Township and Range.	Months Active

**\* CROP REPORTING STATISTICS \***

Please report the honey, wax, and pollination figures for 2010 from L.A. County only.

	Quantity (Lbs.)	Price per Lb.	Comment
<b>HONEY</b>			
	Number of Colonies	Price per Colony	Comment
<b>Pollination for Hire</b>			

***I Remove Bees in the County of Los Angeles and Would Like My Contact Information Shared With the Public:***

I Am Licensed To Do *Structural Bee Removal*: License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Geographic Area Serviced: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I Currently Perform Only *Live Removal* of Bees: YES \_\_\_\_\_

What Do You Do With the Captured Swarms? \_\_\_\_\_

Geographic Area Serviced: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**REQUEST FOR PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION**

I hereby request to be notified before pesticide applications as provided for in Section 29101 of the California Food and Agriculture Code and Title 3 California Administrative Code Section 6654.

I am available for notification during the two-hour time period from \_\_\_\_\_ to

\_\_\_\_\_ Monday through Friday by collect call to the following phone number(s):

( ) \_\_\_\_\_ or ( ) \_\_\_\_\_.

I understand that if I fail to submit my request for pesticide notification to the Agricultural Commissioner IN WRITING within the 72-hour period before relocating, I may not be entitled to recover damages for any injury from pest control operations. I also will not recover damages if I fail to properly post an identification sign at my apiaries or am not available for notification at the hours I have designated above. I understand that this "REQUEST FOR NOTIFICATION" will not expire until December 31, 2011.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE:

\_\_\_\_\_ Beekeeper

DATE RECEIVED: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE:

\_\_\_\_\_ Agricultural Commissioner/Representative



# Community Planning Referral Form

This form, completed and signed by appropriate Community Planning staff, must accompany any *Master Land Use Application* submitted at the Department of City Planning Public Counters regarding proposed projects located in Specific Plan areas, Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs), Design Review Board (DRB) areas, Community Design Overlay (CDO) districts, Pedestrian Oriented Districts (PODs), Neighborhood Oriented Districts (NODs), or Sign Districts (SN).

## 1. Name of Specific Plan, HPOZ, DRB, CDO, POD, NOD, or SN

If this is a Density Bonus case, please write "Density Bonus" and the name of the Community Plan area

### 1a. Sub-Area (if applicable)

## 2. Address of Proposed Project:

## 3. Description of Proposed Project:

**Project Type:**  New construction  Addition  Renovation  Sign  Change of use  Grading

If change of use, what is existing use? \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed use? \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Note to Applicant: Other Approvals

Applicant is advised to obtain a pre-plan check consultation with the Department of Building & Safety to determine any other necessary approvals from other City departments, including City Planning. Potential City Planning approvals in addition to Director's Determination are listed below. This list includes the most common approvals and is not exhaustive.

### Zoning Administration

Adjustment or Variance  
Conditional Use Permit (e.g. sale of alcohol)  
Coastal Development Permit  
Determination

### CPC/APC/Director

Site Plan Review  
Zone Change/General Plan Amendment  
Conditional Use Permit  
(e.g. educational institutions)  
Density Bonus

### Advisory Agency

Tract Map/Parcel Map  
Small Lot Subdivision

City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning WEBSITE: [www.cityplanning.lacity.org](http://www.cityplanning.lacity.org)

#### DOWNTOWN OFFICE

City Hall - 200 N Spring St.  
Rooms 621 & 667

#### VALLEY OFFICE

Marvin Braude Construction Center - 6262 Van Nuys Bl.  
Rooms 351 & 430

**Questions 5 & 6 below to be filled out by Community Planner**

**5. Approved Filing** (check all that apply):

**Specific Plan/SN**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Permit  | <input type="checkbox"/> Adjustment                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Minor</b> (3 signs or less OR change of use)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Exception                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Standard</b> (Remodel or renovation in which additions are no greater than 200sf., more than 3 signs, and/or wireless equipment) | <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major</b> (All other projects, e.g. new buildings, remodels that include an addition of more than 200sf.)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretation                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Modification  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                                 |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Not a project per Specific Plan or SN |

**DRB**

- Final Review            Preliminary Review

**CDO/POD/NOD**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary Action  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sign-off only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Minor</b> (3 signs or less OR change of use)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Not a project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Standard</b> (Remodel or renovation in which additions are no greater than 200sf., more than 3 signs, and/or wireless equipment) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major</b> (All other projects, e.g. new buildings, remodels that include an addition of more than 200sf.)                        |  |

**HPOZ**

- COA    CCMP    Amendment    Demolition    Other

Is the project located in a Federal District/ National Register Historic District or a California Register Historic District?  Yes<sup>1</sup>  No

Does the project involve demolition of a Contributing building or structure?  Yes<sup>1</sup>  No

<sup>1</sup> Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) on properties located in Federal Districts/ Nation Register Historic Districts or in California Register Historic Districts do not qualify for Categorical Exemptions. Projects involving the demolition of Contributing buildings or Structures do not qualify for Categorical Exemptions. Check "Environmental Assessment Form," below and direct applicant to apply for an EAF.

**Density Bonus**

- Density Bonus and/or parking reduction only
- Density Bonus Referral Form attached
- On-menu incentives requested    Off-menu incentives requested

**GPA and/or ZC**

- Consultation completed

**6. Environmental Clearance** (check one):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption<br>(Not for Specific Plan Exception cases, unless the project is a sign) | <input type="checkbox"/> Existing ENV Case Number: _____                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Assessment Form (EAF)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Counter to determine environmental clearance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reconsideration of: _____  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other entitlements needed                           |

Community Planning Staff Signature:	Phone Number:
Print Name:	Date:
Base Fee (List each entitlement base fee separately):	