

Motion

HOUSE LA: Expanding City Planning's Expedited Processing Section (EPS)

As the City of Los Angeles continues to struggle with a Housing Crisis, officials must do what they can to facilitate the growth in our housing stock – both to bring affordability and to encourage the economic growth of this City.

Established in 2003, the Expedited Processing Section (EPS) of the Los Angeles Department of City Planning provides the public with a faster alternative for processing entitlement applications. Cases are "expedited" for an additional fee paid by the applicants and can yield a 30% to 50% time savings over the traditional process.

EPS is currently not available for projects that require a new EIR.

Major Project's unit and EIR unit handle larger projects, but applicants continue to be challenged with significant bottlenecks in the review of complex residential, commercial and mixed-use projects requiring a full EIR. The Department of City Planning estimates that an EIR case takes 12-18 months to complete, not including entitlements.

Recent data show 49 pending EIR cases in the Department of City Planning's pipeline, representing approximately 23,700 housing units. This is in addition to over 600 other environmental cases pending in the Department of City Planning.

It may be to the City's benefit to expand its EPS unit to further expedite projects that require a new environmental. Having the capacity to expedite approval of projects currently in the pipeline by reducing the time it takes to complete review of an EIR may help the City to address its current housing crisis and encourage other housing projects to be built.

Los Angeles, along with a number of other cities, utilize technical consultants on a case-by-case basis to assist with preparation and review of environmental documents. The Department could expand its use of this technical support to effectively reduce the processing time for environmental documents, including a full EIR.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Department of City Planning to report back within 30 days on the feasibility of expanding the Expedited Processing Section (EPS), to include the preparation and review of projects with new EIR's; recommendations should include criteria for development projects to be eligible for expedited service, targets to reduce process time and track progress, and an appropriate fee structure, including the use of outside technical support.

PRESENTED BY: Gilbert Cedillo  
GILBERT A. CEDILLO  
Councilman, 1<sup>st</sup> District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

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