

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to action to rescind the Safe Streets for Playa Del Rey Traffic Safety Initiative (DCP Case No. ENV-2016-1099-SE).

Recommendations for Council action:

1. DETERMINE, in respect to the Playa del Rey Project, that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 21151(c) appeals in connection with the Playa Del Rey Traffic Safety Initiative is moot and are DENIED on that basis.
2. DENY the CEQA Section 21151(c) appeals in connection to the prior Vista Del Mar actions as detailed in the September 11, 2017, October 10, 2017, and December 4, 2017 Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) reports, attached to the Council file.
3. DETERMINE that the Vista Del Mar actions are both statutorily and categorically exempt under CEQA after considering the response as detailed in the September 11, 2017 LADOT report, attached to the Council file.
4. ADOPT and CONCUR with the approvals made by the LADOT as to the Vista Del Mar actions as detailed in the September 11, 2017 LADOT report, attached to the Council file.
5. DIRECT the LADOT to file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles City Clerk and the Los Angeles County Clerk.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the LADOT. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On October 25, 2017, your Committee considered September 11, 2017 and October 10, 2017 LADOT reports relative to rescinding Safe Streets for Playa del Rey Traffic Safety Initiative (DCP Case No. ENV-2016-1099-SE). According to the LADOT, on June 2, 2017, the LADOT filed a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for the Safe Streets for Playa del Rey Traffic Safety Initiative (Playa del Rey Project) in Council District 11, which was approved on May 31, 2017, through a LADOT General Manager's Determination (Attachment 1 of the September 11, 2017 LADOT report). As part of a separate strategy to improve road safety in the Playa del Rey area, the LADOT took actions in February 2017, May 2017, and August 2017, to restripe the roadway and modify parking along Vista Del Mar (the Vista Del Mar Actions).

The Vista Del Mar Actions were not planned as part of the Playa del Rey Project, and qualified as an emergency project that is statutorily exempt from CEQA and as a minor alteration of existing facilities that is categorically exempt from CEQA. On June 15, 2017, Keep Vista Del Mar Open Coalition (Luna & Glushon, A Professional Corporation, Representative) filed an appeal of LADOT's determination that the Playa del Rey Project is exempt under CEQA to Council under CEQA/Public Resources Code, Section 21151(c). The appeal also purports to appeal the Vista Del Mar Actions (collectively, the Playa del Rey Project and the Vista Del Mar

Actions will be referred to as the Projects).

The CEQA appeal challenges the application of the exemption, alleging that the City failed to demonstrate that the Projects will not result in significant travel delay due to unusual circumstances, thereby failing to meet the exception criteria in Section 15300.2(c) of the CEQA Guidelines. On July 17, the LADOT notified the appellant acknowledging the receipt of the appeal and have attached the acknowledgement in a letter that includes the original appeal and a copy of the May 31, 2017, LADOT General Manager's Determination (Attachment 2 of the September 11, 2017 LADOT report).

On July 28, 2017, Kathryn Schwertfeger submitted a *Demand for CEQA Hearing* for the Projects, which is construed to be an appeal under CEQA to Council (Attachment 3 of the September 11, 2017 LADOT report). This appeal alleges the plan to modify the intersection at Vista Del Mar and Culver Boulevard adversely affects ingress and egress in lower Playa del Rey. The two appeals are considered together in the September 11, 2017 LADOT report. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to continue this matter pending further reporting from the LADOT.

Subsequently, on December 13, 2017, the Committee reconsidered this matter along with two additional LADOT reports dated October 10, 2017 and December 4, 2017. According to the LADOT, its December 4, 2017 report memorializes its action to rescind the Playa del Rey Project in its entirety, as recommended by the Mayor's Office and Councilmember Mike Bonin, and revises the staff recommendations. The rescission was complete and the traffic signal operation and all travel lanes were restored as existed before the original May 31, 2017, LADOT approval of the Playa Del Rey Project on November 21, 2017. Pursuant to the recent action to rescind the Playa del Rey Project, the LADOT is making the following revised recommendations:

- a. Determine that the CEQA Section 21151 (c) appeals with respect to the Playa Del Rey Traffic Safety Initiative is moot and are denied on that basis.

Additionally, pursuant to the related Vista Del Mar Actions, which has not been substantively modified since the original submittal of the September 11, 2017 LADOT report, the LADOT is recommending the following:

- a. Deny the CEQA Section 21151(c) appeals with respect to the Vista Del Mar Actions,
- b. Determine that the Vista Del Mar Actions are both statutorily and categorically exempt under CEQA after considering the response included in staff report submitted on September 11, 2017.
- c. Adopt and concur with the approvals of the LADOT as to the Vista Del Mar Actions, as set forth in the September 11, 2017 LADOT report.
- d. Direct the LADOT to file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles City Clerk and the Los Angeles County Clerk.

After further consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the recommendations as contained in the December 4, 2017 LADOT report and detailed in the above recommendations. This matter is

now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. R.', written in a cursive style.

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>VOTE</b>
BONIN:	YES
MARTINEZ:	YES
KORETZ:	ABSENT

ARL  
12/13/17

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**